

SEVEN DAYS

TECH
JAM
THIS
WEEKEND

DETAILS IN THE
CENTER SECTION



PIKE

GE-EEK! THE TECH ISSUE

IN THE CONN ZONE PAGE 25
VT's mad scientist



SUPER SONIC PAGE 34
Scoring e-games



SUNNY PROSPECTS PAGE 24
Drakar Labs powers up



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1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 278: 1039-1044.

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Japanese absolutely go bananas over Welsh corb, which are as regular in Tasha Tudor's work. Tasha Tudor is why I have two myself.

John Lawson
BURLINGTON

POWELL V. NATURE

Ken Plaster's article in our Green Mountain Power CEO Mary Powell ("Green Mountain Power," October 12) was a full piece glorifying an aggressive, cutthroat capitalist who works for the camera while facilitating the destruction of nature for profit. Powell calls GMP "fast, fun and friendly" while sleeping lawsuits and restraining orders on people trying to save the mountains they love in Lowell.

While yes, everyone! Utility-scale wind projects are just more green-washed industrial development, shrouded by a complex media fix to keep the public into stupefied complacency and blind as to what the corporate exploitation of nature really is: psychopathology. Join us on Lowell?

Susan Jones
WALTON

PROUD OF POWELL

Over the past year I have seen Green Mountain Power and its CEO, Mary Powell, in the media a lot, but not until your "Green Mountain Power" [October 12] story have all the pieces of the company's success been so clear to see. Obviously, Powell deserves a ton of credit for all that she has accomplished since joining GMP in 1998.

She has displayed the type of leadership we can only hope for from the rest of corporate America. The fact that the company's headquarters were reconstructed to be more inclusive and less lavish speaks volumes about her business ethics — ethics that are seen far too

infrequently in our country's current corporate culture.

It also appears as though the staff at GMP is following her lead. The response to the very small but vocal minority objecting to the wind project in Lowell has been much more professional than the opponents' use of personal attacks on Mary. It's fair to say that Anneke Smith and Lillian Swelling could learn a thing or two about real leadership from Powell.

It just seems to me that she has a keen eye for making a good deal and knowing what the majority of Vermonters support, whether it be Kingdom Community Wind, the merger with Central Vermont Public Service, or the favorable contracts she negotiated with Hydro-Quebec and Seabrook that will help keep utility rates low for businesses in our state.

We should consider ourselves lucky to have made a well-run company in the Green Mountain State.

Edith Houser
HELDENBURG

THE PROBLEM IS US

[Re "Is It Time to Blame for Vermont's Rising Unemployment?" Yes and No," October 12] The answer to that question is no! We the people have to stop blaming Mother Nature for our shortcomings. We the people are the ones who can change our outcome. We the people are the ones to blame for all of the wacky weather we are having, and we the people are the ones who need to do something about it. I think the government officials need to look back on the Constitution and remember why they created it. It's time that we the people stop blaming other things for what we are doing wrong. Only we the people have the power to do something about it.

Sharon St. Francis
ST. JOHNSBURGH

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FULL DISCLOSURE

Sen Tim Ashe, a candidate in the Burlington mayoral race, is the domestic partner of Seven Days publisher and coeditor Paula Reedy. Reedy is not assigning or editing stories or columns about Burlington politics for the duration of the campaign. Andy Brannigan now has that role.

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GE-EEK! THE TECH ISSUE



IT'S A GOOD TIME TO BE A COMPUTER GEEK IN VERMONT. While some local industries are shrinking — dairy farming, anyone? — companies in the tech sector are growing and hiring. Even non-tech companies need a website or an mobile app, or people to help them secure data and manage their data. It seems: As every other employment ad these days is seeking an IT specialist or a web developer.

To help local companies fill these vacancies, Seven Days helped create the **VERMONT TECH JAM** in 2008. This job fair and tech expo brings together some of the state's most innovative companies under one roof. The fifth one is the Friday and Saturday October 28 and 29, and it's under way right now. In the process of organizing this event, we discover local businesses that Vermonters likely never knew existed. Their stories inspired us to go to the heart of what Vermont companies quietly prefer for customers around the world.

Each year before the Jam, Seven Days' editorial staff explores the ways that technology is reshaping Vermont's economic, education and cultural landscape. This year's tech issue covers all of those angles — and then some.

Andy Brannage profiles his former general manager **BRANFORD**, which has quadrupled its workforce — from 18 employees to more than 100 — in the past year and moved to a new regional office in Burlington's Midtown District. It's a high-tech company that's building **PRIME EXPOSURE**, an online company specializing in cyber security. Brannage just had a year — by a whole lot better.

In Vermont, a plus or minus when it comes to hiring? Kevin J. Kelley talks with fast-growing companies inside and outside of Chittenden County to find out. Several offer **CLIMATE-RESILIENT TECHNOLOGIES** that surprise you.

Vermont's IT jobs definitely figure in the equation. How are the state's schools — from elementary schools to colleges — preparing young people for today's technology? In Burlington and other northern Vermont towns, they're passing out **OPEN-CLASS**. Andy Brannage finds out why.

Meanwhile, IBM fellow **JOHN CORN** tries to spread the word that engineering is awesome. He got **JAMES SCHUBERT**, the **SELF-ORGANIZING ROBOT** into the world to give his pump-and-boost monitor robot.

Finally, invited college grads are the best source of workers for Vermont tech companies, and Champlain College certainly does its part. For the past few years, the college's popular engineering program has been working on cultivating **LOCAL SAVING INNOVATORS**. Thanks to a grant from the state and professor **TECH JAM**, who sponsors in the spirit of the subject, Champlain students are about the forefront of trends in newly emerging fields, such as **ANALYTICS INNOVATION**. Ben Pineda explains why that is.

In the food section, Alice Levitt visits Burlington's Micro Foods factory to learn about **OPEN-USE RESEARCH**. Chef Dale Conners's secret life method. And Corn has reviewed a new crop of **CULINARY APPS**.

Also included in this issue: the **TECH JAM PHOTOGRAPHY**. Read the company's check out the schedule and come on down to the former Boston's apartment to see what all the fun is about.



What's the deal with the pumpkin on the cover?

Is it real or a transformation? Well, it's a little bit of both. This year's tech issue happened to fall on the Wednesday before Halloween, so we wanted a cover that combined the two themes. Our first thought was to convert Tech Jam space into a pumpkin, but we took it a step further in the tech world and had it scan-with-the-outside. Thanks to Michael Perreault from Facebook in London, you can watch a short video of the process on the Seven Days website or scan this QR code with your smartphone, and it'll take you there. We went with the tag in the way we lit up the pumpkin, with an array of lightbulbs instead of a candle.



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the
MAGNIFICENT

MUST SEE, MUST DO THIS WEEK
COMPILED BY
CAROLYN FOX

①

Laughing Matter

[illegible]SEE CALLING LISTING ON
PAGE 46

THURSDAY 27-SATURDAY 29

Runway Rides

The build of the seers is an old one — just look at Anchoy-u, the oldest Chenk'ragian who, around 470 B.C., penned the *Supplanta*. This tale of females threatening their suitors gets an update in Charles Miles's *Big Love* (and, so it has nothing to do with polygamy). Fifty birds live on the island in *Mr. Gansell*, recently from Middlebury College's theater department.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *U.S. Census of Population and Housing, 1990*. Data for 1990 are based on the 100% sample of the census. Data for 1980 are based on the 5% sample of the census.

7

3

WEDNESDAY 2

Fancy Footwork

36,771 dead. CONTACT: Black and feet stamp in Gasp fire, the news from Spain. **Ballet Flamenco José Perce** The wailing show featuring scolding both around and eggs move, mostly all the drama not a single of a soap opera while giving a nod to the dance form a Brazilian here age. (C)

SEE DISCUSSION LISTING ON PAGE 40

FRIDAY 20

Better Off Dead

Looking for a Halloween night fix? *Death by Dinner*, one of the most entertaining options. Part buffet, part bash, part dance party, the all-ages after Halloween concert with custom horror-themed disco tracks, Polyester Caramel costumes and hot, up there! is sure to be a riot of the original Frankenstein — plus it's the Sweet Pumpkin, Charlie Brown, of course.

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SATURDAY 29

Dancers in the Dark

Whittrich's and her BlackTChoreography Collective and four UWM student dancers have been rehearsing among the trees at night here. **Knopfling III: Dancing in a Group**, which explores ritual and folk, premieres in three open-air performances on Thursday, complete with an original live score by Rube and bass.

SEE CALIFORNIA LISTINGS ON PAGE 46.

FRIDAY 29

Stamping Grounds

Origami has place in the family name, Satou expects to at work where Santa Cruz Area is important to the Devil Maskers. They play this Friday With the help of indie-bluesgrass outfit the Toughwars and Vermont's finest, Wooden Cansons, the musicians work to **Stomp and Smash Inse**—by way of recycling money for affected small farmers. We'll count our feet for that.

SEE THIS AND OTHER GREAT BENEFITS
ON PAGE 41.

ORANGE INC.

Home, Sweet Home

In the market for new digs? Andrew Paffery knows all about the home-buying process: the New England printer-artist spent more than six years considering the ideal for his new print series of master plate engravings all about house-hunting. His preliminary studies, done in a variety of media that make his paralyzing situation to detail in "Open House" on display at the Fleming Museum.

SEE ART REVIEW ON PAGE 42

everything else...

CALENDAR	P42
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FAIR GAME OPEN SEASON ON VERMONT POLITICS BY SHAY TOTTEN



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Welcome to the Burlington mayor's race of 2010, where at least one candidate is turning the age-old campaign slogan “Burlington is open for business, but it's not for sale.”

Republican mayoral candidate **KURT WRIGHT** last week shook up the race by letting voters know that, if elected, he would entrust the idea of selling the Burlington Electric Department.

His back-of-the-envelope guess: more is that the city could net the city \$100 million or more—a calculation BLED disputes.

“People have talked about it in the past, but I don't think the climate was right for this in the past and I think it is now,” said Wright, noting the city's pension fund may be short by roughly \$50 million, and Burlington Telecom owes taxpayers \$17 million with no immediate solution in sight.

Wright's idea was roundly criticized by those of the four Democratic candidates for mayor and incumbent Progressive Mayor **JOHN KIM**. Democratic candidate **MIKE WHELAN** isn't ready to sign on to such a proposal—yet. But he didn't completely dismiss the idea.

“The legacy of the Kim administration is that we have no choice but to consider highly unpleasant options,” Whehaner said in an interview.

Wright, a White City councilor and state legislator, also expressed interest in selling off Burlington International Airport and Memorial Auditorium.

Why stop there?

Burlington taxpayers are sitting on a gold mine! Heck, gold mines. Besides, public ownership of parks, waterfront harbors and utilities is sooooo 19th and 20th century.

Wright may be onto something. We need to think outside the box. To wit:

The Community Boathouse: Perfect spot for a floating cafe.

Merens Plant: Just the place for a giant ice-creamery wall... no, wait... a casino with a justice-shedding wall in the centerpiece! Call it Cirque de Glacé.

Parking garage: Right next to the ticket dispenser... slot machines!

Burlington Bike Path: Think toll road. These casinos don't build themselves, people!

North Beach: Beachfront condos and... boats!

The seriousness of Wright's proposal and the city's financial troubles aside, I'm not sure folks in the Queen City are quite ready to gamble away public ownership of these resources.

I DON'T THINK
THE CLIMATE
WAS RIGHT FOR
THIS IN THE PAST
AND I THINK IT IS NOW

KURT WRIGHT

Keeping Up Appearances

Concerns over the cozy relationship between Gov. **PETER SHUMLIN** and Green Mountain Power has driven a wedge between two powerhouse pals: the governor and state Sen. **VINCE BLAZZ** (R-Taunton/Orleans).

As noted in last week's Fair Game, Blazz filed a last-in-line petition asking the Public Service Board to appoint a special counsel to represent ratepayers, given the appearance of “conflict of interest” between GMP and Team Shumlin.

First, a GMP exec is working for Shumlin to help coordinate rebuilding efforts post-fire, and second, the husband of Department of Public Service Commissioner **URS WILSON** is a managing partner in the law firm that represents GMP in regulatory matters. Miller's department is supposed to represent ratepayers and the public interest in utility cases argued before the PSB.

Shumlin spokesperson **NANCY BLAZZ** and the governor is disappointed in Blazz's petition.

“Gov Shumlin and Sen. Blazz have

a longtime and close relationship,” Allen told Fair Game. “The governor was motivated to learn that Sen. Blazz had decided to spearhead an effort to impugn the integrity of the administration in connection with the proposed merger.”

“That's ridiculous. No one is questioning their competency or integrity,” Blazz impounded. “It's a very simple concern that we believe there is an appearance of a conflict of interest.”

Commissioner Miller and Gov Shumlin said they wished Blazz had reached out to the administration with his concerns before going public with his petition.

Given what? He did reach out.

Fair Game has learned that Blazz was scheduled to meet with Shumlin, Miller, several other top Shumlin aides and Rep. **THOMAS** (D-East Montpelier) who like Blazz, has concerns about the ownership of Vermont Electric Power Company, the state's electric transmission network, post-merger. The meeting was scheduled for 3 p.m. on Monday, October 17—but hours before the deadline to file the ratepayer petition. Late Friday, the meeting was canceled.

Enough silence by Fair Game called it up to a scheduling conflict. But Allen said it had more to do with Blazz's involvement in the petition—a petition, if you recall, backed by two former DPS public advocates who served under Democratic governor **MARSHALL BLISS**.

“Given Sen. Blazz's political positioning, we determined that his presence at a meeting would be counterproductive,” said Allen.

Or maybe they were hoping to run out the clock, given that the deadline to file the petition was less than five hours after the scheduled meeting with the gov?

If that was the intent, it backfired. Blazz told Fair Game he decided to file the petition after Team Shumlin canceled the meeting.

“That very timely tipped me toward moving ahead. I made the decision to file on Sunday I filed Monday,” Blazz told Fair Game. “But we held the meeting. I very well may not have filed the petition. It's hard to say.”

On Friday, just four days after Blazz filed his petition, the Shumlin administration officially opposed Blazz's request.

Responding for the Department of Public Service, public advocates **JAMES**

ALLEN wrote: "There are no allegations made, nor is there factual support for a finding, that the commissioner's husband has a financial interest in any entity subject to supervision of the department (or board), or financially benefits from the outcome of any individual matter before the board, when that anger or any other regulatory matter is handled by other members of the law firm."

That's not exactly how **KIM WILLIAMS**, commissioner Miller's husband, explained his role at the firm of Sheshey Parling & Bolen, which represents GMP.

"Although other lawyers in this firm do represent clients in regulatory proceedings, I am screened off of all of these matters and do not participate in these in any way," Eric Miller wrote in an email to *Five Towns*.

He added, "While I do derive some indirect economic benefit from the fees concerning matters on which I do no work, none of those fees are dependent in any way on the political stances by the Department of Public Service or its commissioner, or who the commissioner is."

In other words, the law firm gets paid whether Green Mountain Power wins or loses.

But, as *Flavor* points out in his petition, he's not claiming that anyone is on the take. Rather, the "appearance" of a conflict of interest is enough to warrant special counsel, he argues.

We'll see if the Public Service Board agrees.

Party Proper

The four Democratic barons, or candidates for mayor of Burlington squared off for the first time last week before a crowd of more than 100. One question asked at the debate — and on the minds of many Democrats — is whether the fusion candidate, state Sen. **BO ADAMS** (D/F-Chittenden), would unequivocally support the winner of the caucus.

Adams began the evening by saying he wouldn't apologize for his Progressive roots, and then proceeded to do just that — repeatedly. He even defended himself against anonymous online comments, taking pains to note that he doesn't make Mayor Bill Flinn break fast, nor does he have anyone of the **SHAWNA** on his fence. He even rolled up his sleeves to prove it.

The other three Democrats — City Councilor **SHAH DRAVENCOURT**, state Rep. **JOHN LEUNIG** and airport commissioner and housing developer **Wino Weinberger** — unequivocally said they'd support the

Newcomer becomes winner

As he helped

"A concept that a candidate in this caucus should live up to is to support the nominee as long as there is a high-road campaign," said Adams. A candidate who takes the "low road" shouldn't be guaranteed endorsement, that's

Given their middle-of-the-road campaign so far, I think Adams and the other Ds should worry more about being run over by incoming traffic than each other.

(Adams is the democratic partner of *Seven Days* publisher Paula Ruddy. See disclosure on page 7.)

Lamotte's Labors

Gov. Peter Shumlin has brought new meaning to the term "bully pulpit" with his constant harangue that roughly 600 uneducated state employees drop a grievance against his administration far being refused entry pay for emergency work provided post-facto.

For some labor-friendly Democrats, the governor's stance is unacceptable.

At a meeting last week, the Lamotte County Democratic Committee — home to House Speaker **SHAH SMITH** and Shumlin's adviser **SHAHMURRIE** — unanimously approved a resolution asking the governor and others to "decide from inauguration of the efforts of working Vermonters" to file a grievance and seek adjudication from the Vermont Labor Relations Board. It also offered unequivocal support for the right of state workers to file a grievance in order to seek clarity about contract language.

The Vermont Democratic Party State Committee will be asked to pass an identical resolution at its November 5 meeting, said **PETER ROSSIGNOL**, who chairs the Lamotte County committee.

"I probably don't have much of a chance to pass, because it's hard to criticize the governor when he's your guy," said Rossignol. "I feel a little like Sarah Cassidy [in the barn and I'm out of bullets, but I'm going to give it a shot anyway]" ☐

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iPads for All: Public Schools in Northwestern Vermont Make Education Interactive

BY ANDY BROMAGE



The students in Jennifer Skerrett's eighth-grade social studies class at Bellevue Free Academy in Fairlee are taking a vocabulary quiz. The lesson is the American Revolution, and the terms are economic ones such as "supply," "demand," "inflation" and "entrepreneur."

In some Vermont classrooms, the students would be scratching out answers on paper with pencils. The quizes would go home with the teacher, and the kids would get their grades in a day or two.

But on a recent Monday morning, there isn't a pencil in sight. Instead, each student is taking the quiz on a brand-new iPad supplied by the school. Students are working in groups, their iPads synced to the teacher's, and each group's score is projected onto a screen in real time.

Skerrett calls it the "pace race" because each group is represented by a custom avatar. The more answers they get right, the faster the ship soars across the screen.

The exercise gives Skerrett an instant read on how well the class understands the terminology so she can tailor her teaching accordingly and focus on the students who aren't getting it. Plus, she says, the kids love the game.

"I never would have thought something played out on a screen would be so exciting for eighth graders," Skerrett remarks during a break in the action.

Bellevue Free Academy Fairlee, part of the Franklin Northeast Supervisory Union, is just one of several Vermont schools employing iPads in the classroom. The Vermont Department of Education's technology coordinator, Peter Brooker, says he doesn't know how many other schools are doing the same — and won't until he gets results from a recent survey on December 18th he's certain the number is growing.

At BFA Fairlee, iPads were issued to every seventh and eighth grader — and their teachers — at the start of this school year. In nearby Fletcher, fifth and sixth graders get them, too. The plan is to add a grade a year until all students in the district have their own iPad, says superintendent Ned Kirsch. Starting this week, students will be able to leave the privilege of taking their iPads home.

"I love technology," says Kirsch. "I see it in my own kids. There's whole world in a digital world. You walk into schools and it's the opposite I want to change that."

BFA Fairlee middle school principal Tim Wink is equally jazzed about iPads and their power to get kids more



Jennifer Skerrett and students

excited about learning in and outside the classroom.

Which also believes iPads can level the socioeconomic playing field.

"It doesn't matter what kind of home you come from. Everyone has the same access. Everyone has the same tools," he says during a tour of the school. "So me, public schools are the last bastion of equity in education."

Just close to Skerrett's classroom, an eighth-grade language arts class is engaged in final learning projects. One student is playing "Words With Friends," a crossword game similar to Scrabble. At a desk across, a young boy is engrossed in "ZhuZhu King," a game whose objective is to land a treasure using martial-arts weapons.

Which adds the boy what he likes about the game: "You get to viciously attack rats and dogs with throwing stars and swords," the kid says with a perfectly straight face.

To reach the next level, however, the player must answer basic math questions, such as 22 divided by 11.

"Not really rigorous learning," Wink says, "but if you've got downtime, there's worse things you could be doing."

Seventh-grade Elizabeth Skerrett, the teacher's daughter, is working on a script for a two-person movie she and a classmate are making about a job interview. They're writing the script on the Notepad app, shooting it with the iPad camera and editing the final cut using iMovie.

In the old days, the girls would probably perform their skit live in front of their peers. But now "If we mess up, we don't have to worry about embarrassing ourselves in front of the class," Skerrett says. "We can just reshoot it."

Franklin Northeast dropped a chunk of change buying the iPads — around \$125,000 for 240 tablets this year, or \$500

apiece — and spent another \$40,000 building a schoolwide Wi-Fi system. But the district didn't without coming across by leaving vacant positions unfilled and making other cuts here and there, Kirsch says. Finding \$125,000 every year — in order to bring additional grades online — will be harder.

The district had been issuing Netbook laptop computers to students — and still does in lower grades — but Kirsch says district administrators in the third, including longer history life and less time required to boot up and log on. BFA's students' iPads come loaded with 99 apps, including email and an Internet browser but no Facebook or Twitter.

Hard Vermont might seem an unlikely place to find high-tech classrooms, but towns such as Keesehole have been early leaders in the adoption of the so-called "1-to-1" iPad initiative. Keesehole, which is part of the Franklin Northeast Supervisory Union, was the first town in the state to issue iPads to every student in the high school — about 350 — as well as all students in elementary school. Even last September, in Keesehole, how access to iPads, which they use to learn the alphabet, says Robert Gervin, director of technology for town schools.

Gervin says the "engagement factor" of iPads has reduced "gossiping" and other time-wasters in the classroom. His town credits the iPad for a 67 percent drop in disciplinary actions at the high school this year. It's worth mentioning: It did break a school-owned iPad through negligence, the student's parents have to pay for it.

"We had discussions with administrators who handle the discipline issues, and they think a lot of it has to do with being responsible for a \$500 device, and loss of the 'knock the book out of the hands of the kid walking down the hall' kind of attitude," Gervin says.

Not all parents were thrilled about the idea — or the potential price tag — of equipping their middle schoolers with iPads. Angela Baker, who was "a little hesitant" for her 13-year-old daughter, a seventh grader at Bellevue Free Academy Fairlee, where her mother describes as a "good student," to receive one, but Grace's enthusiasm for school has "skyrocketed" because of the iPad, her mother acknowledges. Still, she worries about her daughter's safety.

"It's a little creepier, so I know a lot of things that most parents don't know," Baker says. "While an iPad — while technology — can be incredible, it can also get you in a lot of trouble."

In the 240-member Essex North Supervisory Union — serving the five large towns of Norton, Lempster, Canton,



news

EXCERPTS FROM BLURT,
THE SEVEN DAYS STAFF BLOG



Q&A: UVM Robotics Researcher Josh Bongard

by Ken Picard

How and why did life on Earth evolve in the myriad ways it did? Would creatures develop in the same ways, and with the same anatomical structures, if we could replay evolution over and over again? And can humans create robots that not only evolve and learn but eventually become sentient?

These are just a few of the heady questions that University of Vermont robotics researcher Josh Bongard wrestles with every day. Little wonder, then, that on October 14, Bongard won one of 94 winners of the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers. The White House honor came with a \$500,000 research grant. (And in case you're wondering, no, that's not Bongard's Lamborghini parked out side of Vt's H-1.)

This week, the 37-year-old Toronto native took a short break from his research in UVM's Morphology, Evolution and Cognition Lab to talk about his work and the future of computational evolution. He'll be one of 11 speakers featured at the sold-out TEDxUVM event on Friday, October 28, at Fletcher Allen's Davis Auditorium. The talks will be live-streaming to the launch lounge area at the Vermont Tech Zoo.

SEVEN DAYS: What's the state of the robotic evolution you build?

JOHN BONGARD: Instead of making robots, what we build are virtual worlds where robots evolve. My interest in robotics has been conceptual. Homelid Mother Nature go about creating complex machines, which are animals and plants and can we borrow some of her ideas to do the same thing in simulation? Take how ancient human hand dogs from rock art, can we breed robots in a simulation to do useful tasks in a virtual world?

SD: Do you believe it's possible to build what Isaac Asimov once called the "positronic brain"?

JB: You mean build something of human-level intelligence? I do believe it's possible. What we're more likely to see first in the coming decades are animal robots, simple robots that are doing roles or operating on construction sites—things like that. I think we'll see ever more sophisticated robots that can do more for us. And, eventually something of human-level intelligence. But it'll be a long time coming. ☺

[Read the full interview on Blurt.]

[Read more excerpts from Josh on 7D.]



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Bromfield and Woodfield — technology coordinator Tim Mays is hoping to introduce this discipline by next year.

Mays firmly believes that "an understanding of technology is more important now than ever," but admits the demographics and lack of high-speed internet access at that section of the Northeast Kingdom present challenges to integrating technology into education. Some kids would like their dad's house to be a fully wired household, while others would find the tables all but useless the second they left school, Mays says.

"The students are digital natives. They are born into a digital world," says Mays. "The parents — some of them on the cusp of being digital, some of them have absolutely no idea. They spend most

of their time cutting down trees in the middle of the woods."

Will iPads actually improve learning? And how will schools measure that?

"That's the hard part," says Woods, the Fairfax principal. He says that progress can be calculated through levels of student engagement, grades and state testing benchmarks.

Gripping kids' attention with iPad use was the easy part just for it to work, teaching has two humps, too. "If we're just going to have kids sitting in rows, the teacher lecturing, that's not worth it," Woods says. "But if we have kids working on real-world problems, asking relevant what they do in class, having it project based, that's when they become part of what you're doing." ☺

A New Law Sponsored by Sen. Leahy Bests "Patent Trolls"

BY KEVIN J. KELLEY

Technological innovations in Vermont and other states are under attack from nefarious forces known as "patent trolls." These entities don't actually invent anything, instead, they're often just hoards of lawyers who lay up patents or patents-in-the-works and then threaten to sue their prey for infringement.

"It's lightning strikes," declares Jerry Tarrant, chief counsel officer of MyMcGraw. "It's a huge impostor that's killing jobs and stifling innovation."

Tarrant's Woodstock-based provider of digital services to retail grocers has been bested by law troll syndicates that claim the company has violated patents they hold. MyMcGraw has had to lay out \$40,000 in legal fees to beat back the suits.

"I got off cheaply," Tarrant says. His investments in defense have apparently prevented three sets of suits to date. Two of them have had to focus their full attention on counterattacks launched by tech titans Google and Microsoft, Tarrant notes. The fourth plaintiff "actually listened to reason" and became convinced that it had no grounds for charging MyMcGraw with patent infringement. Tarrant says.

The troll's hook on finding a target's "patent portfolio" explains Peter Rouns, a Burlington attorney with Rouns Richels Martin who specializes in intellectual property law. That's the dollar amount that a company is willing to pay as an out-of-court settlement in order to avoid the greater expense of litigating up to a full-scale federal lawsuit. Tarrant estimates that a patent troll might swing a \$250,000 payoff to go away which would be about half of what a lawsuit might have in speed and cost.

Trolls often aren't bluffing about taking a company like MyMcGraw to court. They know they can find a favorable venue for their lawsuits in the federal court system's eastern district of Texas, where juries are "eager to grant huge damage awards" to parties claiming patent infringement, Rouns notes.

Juries typically are not well versed in the intricacies of patent law and may conclude that a claim does have merit, even when it comes on everyday products, such as internet shopping. Plenty of law patents have indeed been issued for inventions that are actually not unique and may have been devised by hundreds of different developers notes Alan Cott, founder of Green Mountain Innovations, a patent advisory services. He offers the hypothetical example of "a guy who's selling wood pellets out of his home in Morrisville." A troll who holds a patent on wood pellet production might then threaten the Morrisville dealer with a lawsuit.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office did issue a large number of Internet-related and software patents in the late 1990s that were probably not justified, Cott says. To many outsiders, the federal agency appears overwhelmed and ill

equipped to rigorously review the 500,000 patent applications it receives annually. It would cost many billions of dollars to ensure close examination of every claim. Plus, there's no adversarial discretion in the patent granting process. The only party represented in the proceedings is the legal team that's filed an application on behalf of an inventor.

Many patents are, of course, essential forms of protection for intellectual property. Without them, small-scale inventors wouldn't be able to get their tech creations—which is exactly what trolls often say they're guarding against.

Sen. Patrick Leahy has led a long-running effort to improve the quality of patents issued by the federal agency and thus protect the rights of legitimate inventors. Leahy's legislation finally became law last month, with President Obama signing the first comprehensive reform of the patent system in 50 years.

The America Invents Act "will make it more difficult for patent trolls to bring to the software industry and others," Leahy said in a statement. "This will improve every sector of our economy, in Vermont and across the country."

But Vermont attorneys who defend

trolls' intended victims doubt that the Leahy law will be effective in taking the onslaught. Its only significant anti-troll provision prohibits infringement suits from being filed against more than one company at a time. Trolls have in the past routinely taken the money-saving route of simultaneously suing hundreds of businesses. That change alone won't do enough to dissuade trolls from threatening lawsuits, says Larry More, chairman of the intellectual property group at Downs Barthelme Morin.

Vermont does account for a significant share of patents issued in the United States. In fact it receives more on a per-capita basis than any other state.

"I wish I could tell you it's because we're such great entrepreneurs and innovators," Cott says, "but it's mostly because IBM gets patents for all sorts of things it does every day." Even so, Cott adds, Vermont's counterattacking grocers don't encourage the overzealous thinking that leads to innovation. He cites John Barber Carpenter's pioneering of the snowboard industry as a prime example.

Vermont Teddy Bear Company in Shelburne also received patents in 1999 for various stuffed-animal designs, while Bennett Eyewear in Essex got a patent in 2007 for the positive-negative developed for the U.S. military. And then there's Samuel Hopkins, the Vermontian granted the first patent issued in the United States. It was awarded to the Palisade resident on July 31, 1790 under a patent statute signed into law by President George Washington three months later.

Hopkins' breakthrough? An improved method of making powder, a form of potassium acid formate used as a bleaching agent and expellant in soap. ☐



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Champlain College Opens Digital Forensics Lab



Students in the digital forensics lab.

Let's do the digital sleuthing again!

Champlain College has just opened a Center for Digital Investigation in Burlington's South End — a high-tech lab that lets students work on real-life forensic investigations. Run by veteran digital forensic investigators, Jonathan Rajewski and Michael Wilkerson, "CIDI" teaches students how to examine digital evidence the same way cops look at fingerprints, murder weapons and DNA. It's part of a new curriculum in digital forensics the college launched in May.

Rajewski and Wilkerson were subpoenaed by police — or attorneys in civil cases — to access the contents of digital devices, from smartphones to network servers, without altering the original data. Although CIDI students can't be assigned to criminal cases, they receive the same training and use the same tools as police investigators.

"Some of our students have internships at government agencies and have clearance that they can't even tell me," says Rajewski. ☺



Occupy Burlington Plans to Actually Occupy Something

After more than a month of weekly rallies, the Occupy Burlington movement is finally going to occupy something. Starting at 3 p.m. on Friday, October 26, protesters plan a weekend campout at City Hall Park in solidarity with the Occupy Wall Street demonstrations in New York City.



Occupy movement rally.

Organizers have asked participants to come with tents, sleeping bags, food and other necessities to keep themselves "comfortable" — and bring extra gear for fellow campers if they have it. They'll be congregating on the south side of the park, or to not to interfere with the farmers market on Saturday.

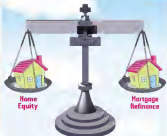
When asked about the purpose of the occupation, an organizer who identified himself as Will replied, "That's a good question. We're open to suggestions."

That is the status of the "Occupy" movement that is bringing together students and laborers, parents and labor unions, veterans and students. There is no one unifying message, platform or list of easy-to-recite demands. But in general, the crowd wants justice and fairness and for big government and big business to stop messing with little folks.

What other spots might protesters occupy? The University of Vermont, Vermont Yankee and large out-of-state banks are all possible locations, according to people who attended last Sunday's rally.

"There are other places we are thinking to occupy that might get us into trouble," said Will. "Because of that, we're not saying where that might be in order to keep the element of surprise on our side." ☺

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Blood Countess Opera Premieres, 24 Years in the Making

BY ALICE LEVITT

Back in 1987, **BARBARA KATZ** first told his father, Zoltan, that he was planning to write an opera about Elizabeth Bathory, the legendary Hungarian "blood countess." Zoltan and his father had long whispered about the possibility that their family was descended from Elizabeth, who was widely known as the female equivalent of Dracula's Vlad Tepes, the inspiration for Dracula. She died imprisoned in a castle in 1614 at the then-advanced age of 54. Elizabeth had been accused of torturing and murdering handmaiden young women, then drinking their blood to preserve her own youth.

"That's one of the things that intrigued me," says Bathory-Katz, who lives in Northfield. He speaks quickly and with an English accent that rarely fails. "It was one of those things talked about in my

adolescent kind of talk. There was little proof of Elizabeth's alleged crimes, but her interest in language and literature, and her successful defense of Hungary against the Ottoman invasion, are well documented.

The Vermont composer's work, *Elizabeth A. Bathory*, finally premieres this week in Hyde Park, Randolph, and Burlington.



Deborah Bathory-Katz

Decades of research, including visits to Gripe Castle in present-day Slovakia, where the countess died, informed the libretto, which Bathory-Katz's completed in 2009. What took him so long? Oh, just creating out more than 1000 other musical compositions, many articles and a book called *Country Star of Vermont*.

After researching and

outlining two previous versions of his opera, Bathory-Katz allotted himself only two months to write the score in the summer of 2010. "I'm very fast," he explains, a fact he proved when he wrote 300 commissioned pieces in 2017 for his "We Are All Mozart" project.

However, he did hit some speed bumps while composing *Elizabeth A. Bathory*, who were supposed to finish work on Bathory-Katz's house before he started scoring the opera, contained well past their original deadline. "They were pushing every," he says. "My studio is upstairs and still is falling down on me as I'm trying to compose this thing. I just turned the fairy into the score."

Anne Decker conducted the **VERMONT CONTEMPORARY MUSIC ENSEMBLE's** first rehearsal of the work last week at **COLLIER PARK MUSIC CENTER** in Colchester. Screening

MUSIC

Plattsburgh Celluloid Enthusiast Promises Truly Weird Halloween Program

BY MARGOT HARRISON

ANDY MACDOUGALL loves 16-millimeter film — the kind that come on "bulky reels" and need to be threaded through projectors. In 1976, when he was in high school, the Plattsburgh, NY, native collected old newspapers to raise money to rent a movie. He screened them for his fellow students after hours on school property.

In the ensuing decades, movies got lighter, cheaper, more accessible — they became tapes, discs and finally just strings of streamable data. But so MacDougall, now 46 "nerds" are still film rock. He collects 16-millimeter prints, screens them — three days, at Plattsburgh's North Country Road Co-op — and advocates for them.

For the past 30 years, MacDougall and a shifting cast of cohorts have called their film-screening operation Son of Mystery Science Theater 3000 (MST3K). The name is an allusion to the geek comedy cable TV show where comedians offered random ranting commentary on grade-Z film via puppets.

Now, MacDougall says, he's reuniting his group the 16-millimeter Showmen to reflect the season and as an excuse, giving kids a chance to watch movies the old-fashioned way, in a communal, analog experience. "We're trying to create this



Andy MacDougall (left) and his partners screening film at the North Country Road Co-op.

throwback to the old days of when movie going was a lot about," MacDougall says.

The group's Halloween-themed event on October 26, "Year at Three A.M.," will offer fodder for ridicule but also genuine film appreciation. MacDougall will start the night with *Don't Be Afraid of the Dark*, the 1973 cult horror film that inspired Guillermo del Toro's recent remake. "We don't really want people showing up to

laugh at that movie," says MacDougall — who, at one memorable screening of Hitchcock's *The Birds*, promised to turn "guano" (actually excrement) at anyone who dared mock.

Laughter will be welcome in the remainder of the program, however, when MacDougall test-screens two shorts he's created, turning them into something he stronger than their creators intended. He

transformed a low-budget spaceytime feature into "End of the World. The Special Addition," and added satirical title cards to archival footage of a woman speaking in tongues to "transcend" her glitch-out. Finally, MacDougall will kick feedback in a new project: genre splitting two

WE'RE TRYING TO CREATE THIS
THROWBACK TO THE
OLD DAYS OF WHAT
MOVIEGOING
WAS ALL ABOUT.

ANDY MACDOUGALL

video trailers for *The Evolving Inferno* and *The Penultimate View* into a single commentary on 9/11 conspiracy theories.

MacDougall doesn't undertake these transformations with adding or subtracting software. Instead, he physically manipulates "disparate bits of film" into what he calls "collages of projected clip art." He produces thought balloons about actors' heads, he scratches the windows side of the print, for "special effects" he exposes the emulsion to fluorescent light.

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STATEofTHEarts

CORLISS BLAKELY TAKES HER PAINTING TO A NEW LEVEL — ON THE IPAD

BY MEGAN JAMES

For 26 years Corliss Blakely painted strictly in watercolor. Then, one day in 1990, she recalls, "I woke up and said, 'I'm doing this.'" as she never looked back.

The 60-year-old artist, who spends time each year in St. Albans and on Butler Island, Vt., and in Nicaragua, is prone to shifts in medium. Last year, when Apple debuted the first iPad, Blakely was quick to buy one. She had been noodling around on her iPad touch enough to know she could "paint" on a tablet. After one day Blakely says, she felt like apps. She had used a traditional paintbrush since.

Blakely's iPad painting technique is the focus of the North Hero House Inn & Restaurant's upcoming Art Studio Weekend. On Friday she'll hook her tablet up to a big screen in

the dining room and paint still lifes her paints. "I've designed the dining room around her paintings," Blakely says. "I wanted it to feel a little like an art gallery."

It certainly feels any as a recent afternoon Blakely had set out an art-opening-worthy cheese plate from which Blakely nibbles while setting up her iPad on a small stand. She arranges little orange and green beads on the white tablecloth and begins to create.

At first glance, what she's doing looks just like "painting" on the clunky old Microsoft Paint program from the 1990s. But as she works—quickly—the graphic's subtle textures begin to emerge. Blakely uses a small stylus at a brush. Some iPad artists use their fingers, she notes, but "because I'm a painter I like something in my hand."

Her finished iPad works—which she prints as giclées on canvas with a large format archival printer—look strikingly similar to her oil paintings. Her work is inspired by a childhood spent on her family's Florida farm and inside her mother's antique shop, a yellow pear on a marble surface, several jars of pickles arranged on a chipped white cupboard, a red pepper cut in half and floating in space.

Blakely uses two apps: Procreate and ArtStudio, and wrote the manual for the latter after wiping out its developer with one of the paintings she made with it.

Painting on an iPad has some major advantages over traditional painting. For one, it's cheaper. Blakely paid \$400 for her iPad. The apps were \$4.99 and 99 cents. She could spend that much on oil paints for a single painting, she says.

Blakely knows all it she can change the size and opacity of her brush with the touch of a button. She can zoom in to perfect minuscule details. And painting is quicker, too. What an oil might take three weeks, an iPad work is done in three hours. The only drawback, says Blakely, is that the screen is difficult to see outdoors. That's why she sticks to still lifes these days.

"Every once in a while I do miss my color," Blakely concedes. But the best part of working on the iPad she offers is this, "If you don't like something, you just hit the back button." ☐

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Art Studio Weekend at the North Hero House Inn & Restaurant: three-course dinner with iPad painting demonstration by Corliss Blakely Friday October 28 at 7p.m. \$42 per person. iPad art class taught by Blakely on Saturday October 29, 8a.m. to noon. \$25. Info: 352-4732, northherohouse.com

the dining room and paint still lifes while onlookers indulge in a three-course dinner. The next morning she'll lead iPad viewers at a three-hour tablet painting workshop.

The event is close to owner Walt Glensberg's heart. He grew up with Blakely. Well, he was raised in New Jersey but his family had a vacation home on Butler Island, where Blakely also spent summers. When he left a job on Wall Street to buy and renovate the North Hero House in 1990, he reconnected with

WHISKEY TANGO FOXTROT

We just had to ask...

Just what is augmented reality?

BY KEN PICARD

It seems as if we've unleashed our 6th sense. Whenever my wife and daughter go to bed, only I pore through the science-fiction roster on Netflix, searching for classic gross-outs like *Minority Report*, *RoboCop*, *Avatar* or *Terminator* to satisfy my techno-pose.

What do these films have in common, other than the fact that my wife won't watch them with me again? Each of them offers a peek into a technology that has already evolved from fiction to fact: augmented reality, or AR. Attention to this week's Vermont Tech News, *Friday and Saturday* in the former Boston bookstore on Church Street, will get to see a live demonstration, in the form of a virtual sculpture installation, thanks to some faculty and students at Champlain College.

So, what is augmented reality? Simply put, it's a method of layering digital information on virtual images, such as logos, websites and three-dimensional designs, on top of the real world. Using the camera, compass, gyroscope and Global Positioning System found in smartphones and e-readers, an augmented-reality application can locate embedded objects, or point a user



An augmented reality sculpture

to the nearest coffeehouse, movie theater, bookstore or subway station. Have you grasped the basic concept of how AR works, it's easy to imagine all the possibilities of future applications.

Many of these futuristic apps already exist and are instantly downloadable. For example, are you the kind of driver who charged by forgets where you parked? The *Augmented Car Finder* app records exactly where you leave your car, then leads you back to it at a later (if you've lost your car keys, you're on your own.)

Do you ever gaze up at the night sky and wonder, "What is that cloudy mass of stars?" An app called *StarWalk* allows the user to aim an iPad or iPhone at the sky and identify specific constellations, planets and stars.

Other augmented-reality apps can show you the precise distance to the next golf hole, the elevation of a distant mountain, or the year that a particular cathedral or Mexican temple was built.

Champlain "Colby" Brownell, which hosts a student and adjunct professor at Champlain College, is currently using that last app, called *Layar*. He's working with fellow Champlain instructor Kim Brownell and Chris Thompson, director of the BCA Center for Burlington, to create 3-D AR

sculptures around the Queen City (Burlington) and the *Layar* app and you can see or light up places Brownell has "positioned" in history books.

Brownell, 41, an award-winning sculptor by training who now teaches 3-D computer design. When he and his cohorts found about this year's Tech Fest, they thought it would be cool to create an installation that's virtually limitless in its artistic potential.

"What inspired us was the idea of public sculpture," Brownell explains. "Could you have a whole show around you that's invisible unless you have direct access to it?"

Part of the appeal of AR is that a designer can create a 3-D model in virtual space that a viewer can walk around, view from different angles and then click on to obtain more information.

For example, Brownell suggests that the architect who eventually designs the proposed Thurgood station in Williston could potentially create a 3-D architectural rendering of the building's completed design that could be viewed at its proposed location. Anyone with a smartphone or e-reader could then walk around, and even inside, the store before a single shovel breaks ground. The potential for developer cost-revenue boards — and environmental activists — is limitless.

Another possible application, Brownell says, is to create layers of history around a city. For example, he imagines that, one day tourists visiting Burlington may be able to point their smartphones at a building on Church Street and instantly call up details of what once stood on that spot, or see an overlaid photo of the building taken 100 years ago. This "virtual Church Street" would allow visitors to interact with the environment and gather historic or architectural details about their surroundings.

"While hoping for the Tech Fest that, by showing people a few simple explanations of the technology and 'What would you do with that?' people will suggest other cool ideas," Brownell says.

In the near-term distant future, an AR facial-recognition app may be used by Burlington emergency personnel to, say, pull up the electronic medical records of an anonymous patient. Or Burlington police may use a similar app to check the top sheets of a suspect's car.

The data, much of the AR in Burlington is for less exciting and mostly irrelevant advertisements for local restaurants and stores. And there are plenty of whitewash uses for it, Brownell recalls finding one app that uses facial-recognition software to spot human faces, and then tracks down names on them.

"There's no real life-changing value to it," he admits, "but it was pretty interesting." ☐

From the augmented-reality sculpture installation by visiting the Vermont Tech Fest Friday and Saturday (October 26 and 27) at the Boulder Building, 25 Church St., in Burlington. Get there early enough! Take a poster bus 9:15 to 10:15 on Friday (7:15 to 8:00 on Saturday). They meet at the Champlain College Mall & College Plaza Mall.

Questions or more info about questions concerning Tech Fest? Email questions to techfest@vtsnet.com.

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Dear God,
Zombies have so many dis-
turbating traits, but my question
involves only two: the stench
of their decomposition, and
the tendency to congregate
in large numbers. A single
dead body gives off a foul
odor that is almost overcom-
ing; certainly enough to
make a normal person vomit
if they were close enough.
Now, say you're one of those
zombie-apocalypse survivors,
hunkering yourself inside
a shopping mall, faced with
dozens if not hundreds of
undead shoppers. Putting
aside the brain eating and all
that, how dangerous is the
combined stench of all these
voluntary corpses? Assume
they're giving off methane
or ammonia or some other
noxious gas. Would the ag-
gregated stench of hundreds of
walking dead make your mall
sanctuary unlivable? Awa-
it if you managed to keep from
being bitten?

Alie, White Post, Virginia

Mask Twerk would
have said:
Shopping mall
sanctuary don't figure
much in the Twinkies story.
However, a distinctly compossible
scenario may be found at the
end of *A Connecticut Yankee in
King Arthur's Court* (1889), in
which the protagonist, Hank, and
a small group of associates use
dynamic, electrification, dynam-
ite and Go-Go guns to slaughter
the misadventurous of England
— 30,000 knights. Surrounded by



corpses, the victims soon realize
they have no reason to celebrate.
"We were to a trap... of our own
making. If we stayed where we
were, our dead would kill us...
few would be made sick by the
poisonous air bred by those dead
thousands!" Hank's associate,
the wizard Merlin, shows up to ghost.
"We were conquered, ye are con-
quered!" He then blunders into a
fire wire and is killed.

Erving staff, the more so
because it was accomplished
without computerized special
effects. But it's also double fic-
tion, in terms not just of the story
but the idea that cadavers emit
toxic fumes. Decaying bodies are

definitely stinky, but the toxic
part is a myth.

Belated to zombies, as the alleged
emissions of the dead were
known, dates back to the ancient
Greeks. The 1797 edition of the
Encyclopædia Britannica soberly
reported that the "putrid effluvia
of dead bodies" was responsible
for illness and death in the same
way that marsh gas was. One man
was reported to have suffered a
"violent inflammation" of the
throat a few months before over-
ruling body Teddy shaw talks
about it, musing, but the underlying
fear persists, surfacing frequently
after natural disasters, when the
volunteers hastily bury the dead
in mass graves to prevent the
spread of disease.

Such scenarios are possi-
ble. However, lucky their smell,

dead bodies aren't especially
dangerous, setting aside those
that are trying to eat your brain.
Infections may be in order
when the cause of death is an
infectious disease (Cholera, for
example) but for the most part toxic
pathogens are worthless, not
abhorrent. True, some germs can
be spread by aerosol droplets,
but these are caught only by the
living. The dead have stopped
breathing, and once corpses are
undead, too.

A dead body gives off a variety
of gases as it decays. Two of them,
ethyl mercuric cadaverine and
putrescine, are primarily respon-
sible for "fled body smell," and are
produced mainly during the blast
or putrefactive phase of decom-
position. The two chemicals are

toxic, but only in large amounts:
a 200-pound individual could
ingest more than a quarter-pound
of either without getting a lethal
dose.

Other gases given off by de-
caying bodies, such as carbon
dioxide, methane and hydrogen
sulfide, can also be dangerous,
particularly if encountered in a
confined space. The first two can
asphyxiate you, and the third dispo-
sition — every so often you hear
of sewer workers being killed by
a buildup of hydrogen sulfide in
the pipes. Consequently, therefore,
if you were locked up for an ex-
tended period with a roomful of
rotting zombies, the fumes might
accumulate to a perilous degree.
I will say generously, however,
that if it were in this situation, the
danger of hydrogen sulfide poi-
soning would not be apparent
to my mind.

Still, while the stench of some-
times probably won't kill you, it
may gross you out of existence.
If you're someone that makes
you consciously want to throw
up, that to me is a good working
definition of an unbearable
environment.

A couple cvents, though.
First, while assuming zombies
are in an active state of decompo-
sition, which is the state of peak
stink. We don't know for certain
that's the case, and since zombies
are imaginary we won't know. But
out. Second, in medical textbooks
know, you can get used to just
about anything. A dab of Vicks
VapoRub under the nostrils may
diminish the scent of zombies, if
there is one. Or you could just be
a man and suck it up.

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Occupy Wall Street Is Feminist

The closest ancestor of Occupy Wall Street was the Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp in Berkshire, England. The camp started in 1980, after some Welsh feminists called Women for Life on Earth marched from Cardiff to the RAF military base in Berkshire, asking to debate the issue of U.S. cruise nuclear missiles there. Ignored, the women pushed their tents outside the fence. They were told to take their tents down. They slept under tarps or in the open. Over the years, thousands camped out, with as many as 70,000 showing up to link hands and encircle — or, as they put it, “embrace” — the base.

Jeansuits arrived from everywhere. Other camps sprang up across Europe. The women conducted thousands of acts of nonviolent civil disobedience to slow the war machine. They were repeatedly evicted and arrested. But they stayed — for 10 years, until the missiles left, and nine years more, until a moment in their struggle was evicted.

Forget comparisons to the '60s. What the current Occupy movement is emphatically not like is the old (pre feminist, male) New Left. The Occupy Wall Street encampment at New York's Zuccotti Park (renamed Liberty Square) is a feminist phenomenon in both deep and quotidian ways — not just in the ubiquity of women protesters but in its group process, conversant ethics, aesthetic feel and emotional tenor.

No me, and everyone, leads: “People add all the time, like, who are the leaders? Well, some of us are leaders. And we're all leaders. Exactly the same?” So says a woman in the beginning of a Microcinema video about consensus at Liberty Square.

Rally second-wave feminists rejected hierarchies, even those worked out from the mortgage when the men (and a few always men) who led the incident and longest held the flag, 1970s feminists felt there had to be a more effective, and fun, way of working together. The way was leadershipless. According to some University of Amsterdam psychologists, that intuition was right. Their study found that narcissists tend to rise in organizations, largely because other people think their qualities — confidence, decisiveness, authority and self-esteem — make them good leaders. In fact, the narcissist's preoccupation with

his or her own brilliance stifles good decision making, it impedes their free and creative exchange of information and ideas.

In OWS, being loud wended doesn't get you anywhere. Instead, the crowd opens its arms to you. “Thanks, we got a. Wrap it up!” The gesture is part of a clever sign lexicon that lets everyone be heard without everyone having to speak. If you do speak, you can't dominate the discussion. You raise your hand, are put “on stage” and wait your turn. And the human mic repeats every speaker's words, noisy or quiet. Stand out protector, “We amplify each other's voices.”

It's not that no one ever takes leadership. It's that anyone can, at any time — and in any way, so doubt informed by gender, class and origin. That many ways

employment of all — and despite constant, shoulder-to-shoulder traffic, the chrysalis remains snugly.

The movement is consensus. The Greenham women did not align with either side in the nuclear arms race. Similarly, the Occupy movement refuses to side with any political party. These commitments reinforce the movement's integrity and greater wide respect.

The means are also the ends. “You make the road by walking,” wrote the Spanish poet Antonio Machado. The principle that guides direct democracy — not only a feminist process but also an anarchist one — would seem self-evident: You cannot create a just, peaceful, egalitarian society through coercion, violence or oppression.

This isn't a matter only of doing pol-

the commercialization of everything, including death. And politics — political power and political imagination. For 30 years, Americans have been purchasing the solutions to their problems. This has diminished not just the creativity of solutions but the perception of the problems themselves. If there's no app for it, it doesn't exist.

At Zuccotti, there is nothing to buy — no T-shirts, no buttons, no signs. The 99 Percenters are coaling their movement from scratch.

The complements are many and the vision unapologetic. Noting that the critics of OWS — no many angry professions, no strategy — were also barred at the women's movement, longtime activist and writer Meredith Tax posted on her eponymous blog the letter for the 1970 Boston International Women's Day march. The letter demanded a radical overhaul of everything — from a guaranteed living wage to children's rights to abortion on demand. It was so long, soer Tax, it had to be printed on legislative paper.

The occupiers' grievances range from illegitimate mortgage foreclosures to “grove contracts to murder prisoners.” There are famously no demands. That is as it should be, Jonathan Schell wrote in the *Nation* last week: “It was not a new set of policy ideas that was being born — the world was already overhauled with these, enacted upon — but a new spirit of action, without which all the demands of the world are dead letters.”

In 1950, the Greenham women sent. The missiles were sent back to the U.S. under the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty Signed in 1987 by the U.S. and USSR, the treaty began by affirming the peace camp's position: “Conscious that nuclear weapons would have devastating consequences for all mankind.”

Of course, the peace camp didn't stop the war machine. The convoys are still rolling. Most of the 1970 Boston women's demands haven't been met, but feminism changed the world — including Liberty Square. If Occupy joins a journey into the world's day-decimating modern mess, it will change the world again. ☐

FORGET COMPARISONS TO THE '60S.
WHAT THIS OCCUPY MOVEMENT IS EMPHATICALLY NOT LIKE
IS THE OLD (PREFEMINIST, MALE) NEW LEFT.

can flourish together was a discovery of the early life-struggle movements.

The process is nonviolent. Every time those Berkshire cruise missiles led the base, either for exercises or to go to strategic locations during times of “international tension,” the police cars jugged the transport. They painted peace signs on the truck windshields or heaped absurd, thin women disheveled a vehicle by shoving a potato in as exhaust pipe. Every time, the demonstrators were arrested.

Some Wall Street occupiers are looking for confrontation, and they get it. But they are few, and the police instead meet of the hand, holding its response to non-violence. If someone is illegal, so too.

The second tenet of the Official Occupy Wall Street Good Neighbor Policy is “non tolerance for violence or verbal abuse toward anyone!” The third is “zero tolerance for abuse of personal or public property.” Signs ask people to respect the flowers — the park is a public space for the

ness. It's one of daily life. The Greenham women lived on the Earth they wanted to save. Surviving without hot water, electricity or telephones remained their hourly of the urgency of their cause.

Life in Liberty Square is naive, too. Still, the library is setting huge. The food is healthy, essential and free to all. The right-wing website — Newsweek — has called that while other Americans are shoveling in Hurricane Hooper, the occupiers are being fed gourmet toast by celebrity chefs. True. So are the homeless participants.

Like Greenham, OWS is a cry against



Solar Flair

Fast-growing Draker Laboratories makes the most of its moment in the sun

BY ANDY BRONAGE



It is a field in southern New Jersey, one of the nation's largest solar farms, in testing machine use clean energy with the help of high-tech instruments made in Vermont. The 100-acre solar array in Pilgrimage Township uses a data management system made by Burlington-based Draker Laboratories to track the array's power output, weather conditions and technical problems in real time.

Solar power was the fastest-growing industry in America in 2010, and Draker Labs has been enjoying a wild ride on the "solar coaster," as insiders here dubbed it. Company revenues are on track to grow 250 percent this year, and Draker has been on a hiring spree to meet the demand for its product. The company started the year with 12 employees and expects to end it with more than 50. It outgrew its sales personnel offices in Burlington's Old North End and in April moved its corporate offices to the former location of Draker.com on the Miller Building.

At its new office — a bright, post-and-beam space with hardwood floors and exposed brick walls — Draker manufactures what it calls "sunny" monitoring systems for large commercial or utility-scale solar photovoltaic systems. CEO Charles "Chick" Carter explains them as sensors and instrumentation that collect data about a solar system — amount of sunlight captured, ambient air temperature, kilowatts produced — so operators can tell whether it is performing properly and troubleshoot any problems that arise.

That information has become increasingly important as solar power systems get bigger and their owners put more money on the line. Fortunately, the developers of the New Jersey solar farm

Pinch Power Parks, and Con Edison Development have each \$40 million into the project. With that much money at stake, Carter says the developers want assurance that their investment is paying off.

Privately held Draker appears to have the right product at the right time, but it has acquired smart business moves, hard work and "unreliable effort on their part" to get there, notes Jeff Wolfe,

CEO of the White River Junction solar panel company gridlock. Employing a different metaphor to describe solar industry trends, Wolfe observes: "Being able to actually help you the opportunity, but you have to now really really hard."

Since its founding in 1999, Draker Labs has installed monitoring systems at 500 solar projects in the U.S. and Canada, including one in a vineyard in Sonoma County, Calif., at a Nevada golf course and on the rooftops of seven REI retail stores. When the 20-megawatt New Jersey solar farm — the largest in the northeastern United States — went online last month, Draker was already knee-deep in an even bigger project, a 30-megawatt solar array in Ontario.

Draker's mission is also monitoring solar projects in Vermont. The company partnered with gridlock to build the 100-kilowatt rooftop array at the Green

Mountain Coffee Roaster headquarters in Waterbury. An informational book in the building and its accompanying website display exactly what the Draker sensors are detecting. On its website, 8/14-degrees day last week, the system was generating 754 kilowatts of power, enough to offset up to 20 percent of the plant's energy needs.

More recently, Draker joined Burlington-based Powerline Real Estate to build what is the state's largest solar array in Vermont, the 1-megawatt, 100,000 Solar Farm off Route 7. Carter says Draker would love to move business in Vermont, but government incentives are weak here compared with those of other states. A pilot program called the "solarized offer," which

extended advantageous rates to solar projects in 2009, expired many more applicants than it could accommodate.

"We hope the Vermont Legislature expands the program," Carter said during a recent interview in his makeshift downtown office. "Clearly the demand is there."

A self-proclaimed Connecticut native, Carter joined Draker Labs as CEO two years ago. Before that, he worked as chief financial officer and later as vice president of sales and business development at Northern Power Systems, the Farm-based

manufacturer of wind turbines. He got two degrees from Dartmouth College: a bachelor's in economics and an MBA from the Tuck School of Business.

Carter believes Vermont is a great place for tech companies to do business — though it might not seem that way to outsiders. He says one of the most frequent questions he gets from one of state investors is whether he can buy and recruit enough qualified employees in such a small, rural state.

"Their vision of Vermont is not exactly high tech," Carter says. "The good news is that the techy people first want to work in remote life energy don't necessarily want to be in New Jersey or metropolitan New York. They can work in this field and live in a beautiful place like Vermont and make both here. That's a home run."

Carter took over for company founder and chief technical officer A.J. Rossmann, who parted ways with Draker this spring because of what he calls "a difference of opinion with number of things internally, including how we go about sales and how we go about our finances." Rossmann still maintains a minority stake in the company, but no longer serves on the staff or board.

Rossmann admits that he needed management help as the company grew — he's an engineer, not a business man — but says it was still hard to walk away from his "baby."

"I developed the technology platform, recruited the team, grew the company, satisfied the customer, grew the niche and eventually outperformed the competition to put Draker in a position to become a large company," he says. "Now it's up to the MBA to take the reins."

Like so many entrepreneurs, Rossmann started the company — building solar power systems — in his living room. He founded Draker Solar Design in 1999 when



Charles "Chick" Carter

PHOTO COURTESY OF DRAKER LABS

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he moved to Burlington to study for a PhD at the University of Vermont. At first, he built and installed residential solar power systems, but he quickly recognized mounting was a key niche.

"It became apparent to me that people were spending money on systems and had no idea how well they were working," Rozman says.

So he set up a business, started to show his dog Drinker and rethink what he produced — a packaged data management system

"There was a time when I didn't pay employees or myself for nearly three months (out of the first seven employees I had, only one left — and the rest of us came back). We had a lot of good people who were very committed to what we were doing."

A turning point came in 2008, when Drinker secured \$1.3 million in venture capital to develop a first-generation energy-monitoring product from a consortium that included Shafter-



I GREW THE NICHE AND ESSENTIALLY OUTPERFORMED THE COMPETITION. NOW IT'S UP TO THE MEAS TO GROW THE VALUE.

A.J. ROZMAN, FOUNDER AND FORMER CEO, DRINKER LABORATORIES

with a user-friendly web interface — at a trade show. Within days, he had his first customer: a company that sold a commercial power system test race trailer in California. Initially, the company later renamed Drinker Laboratories made monitoring systems for solar and small wind projects — "a little bit of everything," Rozman recalls. He quickly noticed the real growth and the real money were in solar. Still, the cash wasn't exactly rolling in.

Rozman says he charged everything on credit cards, then relied that debt into a second mortgage. He purchased a subterranean building on North Street and used his equity as it to secure a \$100,000 loan from the Vermont Community Loan Fund.

"I leveraged every asset I had along the way to start people," Rozman says.

based FirstVista Capital, Campbell Scientific, the National Group and Vermont's Green Energy Development Fund. That past July, Drinker completed another round of equity funding: \$3 million from New Hampshire-based Harbor Light Capital Partners will provide research and development of its next-generation monitoring infrastructure system.

"If you start gaining traction and success you can grow funding sources in Vermont. You're forced to look outside," explains Curtis. "That's a double-edged sword in that you need capital to grow, but the more you take loan out of state [the more] you weaken your ties to Vermont. We've seen a number of successful tech start-ups acquired or moved out of state as they've grown. I don't see that being a make here."

Looking ahead, Drinker's goal is to launch internationally by the end of 2013. Curtis sees "huge potential" in Europe, particularly in solar-friendly Germany and Italy. The challenge, he says, will be to grow smart.

"We're conscious of not pricing on too much too fast," he says. "Frankly, the challenges for us is innovation." ☐

Drinker Laboratories is an incubator at the Vermont Tech Inc. (VTEC) and is located in the building 30 Church St. in Burlington.

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Seeking Geeks

Vermont companies compete to find qualified tech workers

BY KEVIN J. KELLEY

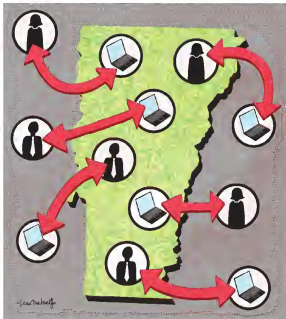
Recruits for Vermont tech companies with they could find more job candidates like Anthony Urina. The computer information technology major at Champlain College says he hopes to find remote work in either Vermont or his native New Hampshire. "I'm intrigued by the cold weather and low the ecological friendliness of the residents," Urina says of the Burlington area. Plus, he's more focused on his prospects for career advancement than on getting the highest possible paycheck as soon as he can.

At a time when 14 million Americans are looking for work, many of the state's tech firms are experiencing a labor shortage. That's due, in part, to the sector's rapid growth — in Vermont and elsewhere in the country. South Burlington-based Logic Supply, for example, had three employees in 2004, it's got 34 today. MyWebGeosur has tripled its workforce in the past three years; all 130 of its employees will soon be taking away as the company's newly purchased and renovated corporate headquarters at Winooski's Champlain Mall. But, while tech jobs pay more than most in Vermont — the average salary for a software developer was \$73,600 in 2010, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics — they're more lucrative elsewhere. A recent college graduate with the right skill set might earn at least a third more in an established tech company along Boston's Route 128 than in a young digital business in the Burlington area, estimates Michael Heyman, human resources director for Logic Supply, which creates special-purpose hardware for businesses.

Even in Massachusetts, "Demand for high-tech talent is so great that workers are turning down stock-price bonuses, and companies are offering five-figure cash bonuses for successful rehires," the *Boston Globe* recently reported.

As long as American universities continue to turn out significant numbers of graduates in science, technology, engineering and math — the STEM — wages will rise as the number of available workers falls causing the cycle to spin over faster. "We're seeing powerful salary inflation again in the high-tech sector," confirms Tim Kinsley, chief operating officer of MyWebGeosur, which has rapid growth outside with "the cost of living here doesn't square with the pay scale," he adds, noting that the Burlington area's expensive housing makes the lower local pay rates even less attractive.

But more slow-downs succeed for the difficulty of filling vacancies in Vermont's tech job market. "We pay nationally



competitive rates," says Goodroom marketing chief Ellen Kelly. Salary deflationary "isn't an issue for us." But because Goodley's growth has been so swift — it has doubled to nearly 500 Burlington employees in the past three years — it's constantly prowling for talent. And the company, which designs websites and software for car dealerships,

does much of its local hunting for from its headquarters in Burlington's Pine Street. Even when on charge of hiring paid out that Winooski's small population yields a shallow pool of technologically proficient candidates. "We almost always have to look elsewhere for engineering talent," says Kelly Goodroom, vice president for human

resources at BioTrek in Winooski, which specializes in micro-instruments flow. Kelly says Goodroom is even likely to find engineers near its Massachusetts Peach branch in crowded southern California, than in northern Vermont.

To address the dearth of skilled candidates, some local tech companies have



cultured relationships with potential former schools such as Vermont Technical College and Champlain College, some offer paid internships. Logic Supply noted a scholarship fund for Champlain students who excel in their tech studies.

The University of Vermont produces a few engineering grads equipped to excel in specialized positions, and Microstrain in Williston has been quick to offer them jobs. Here Arno, a UVM grad, founded the company which makes test sensors for applications ranging from knee implants to drone navigation. "A lot of our people were hired locally," notes Dave Churchill, Microstrain's vice president of engineering. Generally, though, the engineering school at UVM "teach at as high a level as some other places. We need the cream of the cream."

An assistance on hiring only the best

disturb, says executive vice president Chris Rodgers. And, since his two-year old son calls it the market leader in wildlife and nature apps for mobile phones, it probably makes sense for Green Mountain Digital to say part in a rural area.

But Microstrain doesn't like telecommuting, either. "You can't build a team" when someone's not physically in the workplace, Churchill says.

MyWebDriver and Deskstream each have a few telecommuting employees, but neither company seems eager to enlarge their number. "You lose communication" when a worker doesn't put in face time in the Burlington Mill, Kenney says. Dealer has "only a handful" of employees, including one of the company's lead engineers, who commutes "via Skype and airplane." Kolly adds: Dealer, she says, "has been testing this out in the past year."

MICROSTRAIN SPENT SEVEN MONTHS LANDING THE MOST RECENT ADDITION TO ITS 55-MEMBER WORKFORCE.

can lead to a promoted and often frustrated, even resentful position for many Vermont tech companies. "We look for a high level of passion and a deep knowledge of tech. Finding that is a real challenge," says Hayman of Logic Supply. "It takes time to locate the right candidate."

Microstrain spent seven months landing the most recent addition to its 55-member workforce, Churchill reports.

Some don't. Kenney's Global 2 International, which manages other companies' intellectual mailing lists. "We're very meticulous on our recruiting process," says HR manager Anna Balder. "Attaching up with the chemistry and culture of our company is very important."

Not surprisingly, most Vermont tech companies aren't wild about allowing workers to live out of state — though some are starting to experiment with providing telecommuting either than making new hires relocate.

Though it's far from any jaybird, say, Woodstock based Green Mountain Digital expects its employees to live within driving

distances. "We're current opening for a marketing assistant," offers pretrial telecommuting options. HR manager Balder says, explaining that the right person for the job wouldn't have to come into the office more than twice a month. The Remington-based company doesn't have much choice about permitting telecommuting, given that it's situated in an area with "a lower pay scale even compared to Burlington and Montpelier notwithstanding the [Vermont] Capital District," Balder says.

The lack of opportunities for lateral movement also handicaps Vermont companies that compete for employees with businesses in tech-heavy areas. "Vermont has reputations for not offering lots of options," says Logic Supply's Hayman. "That limits us."

A wild 20th-century tech hire by a Burlington business may well be ready for new challenges — and higher pay — by age 30, but he or she will probably have to move out of state to find a comfortable fit. "Young employees do like having mobility," notes Gendron at BioTide.

So what's the best way to persuade a well-credentialed out-of-state to move north for a tech job? "You're selling not only the company; you're also selling Vermont," says Kenney of MyWebDriver.

BioTide's Gendron acknowledges that "many of us do make sacrifices to live here," but Vermont's quality of life "offers a lot of its attractive to a certain kind of individual," she adds.

Churchill, the head engineer at Microstrain, got off from out-of-state businesses when he decided 10 years ago to leave his teaching post in orthopedics at UVM's medical school. "Here, I looked around, but I made the choice to stay in Vermont for lots of reasons," he relates.

Beautiful scenery, great people and abundant opportunity," Joe Chapman senior Stephen Jakubowski, which supports in computer forecasts. "I am not much of a winter person, though," he adds, by way of explaining why he is using home to New Jersey to lead a job.

Other techies, like Churchill, come to Vermont first for money and wind up spending more or all of their careers here. Nearly all of the employment specialists interviewed for this story say their company's workforce exhibits extraordinary loyalty. Vermont's values and workplace culture compensate in many cases for all the drawbacks of living in the state.

"It's the lifestyle that attracts young people who like the outdoors," Kelly of Deskstream says. "Many are also inclined to live in Burlington. I haven't heard a single person say they want to leave." Dealer celebrates an image of happiness that appeals to techies who don't want to sacrifice their individuality to a code of corporate conformity.

Gendron makes a similar claim of fierce employee commitment in regard to BioTide, which in 43 years has employed 260 people. "We haven't lost anyone to the competition," she says of the Williston company. And, at the same time, "We are successful in hiring from our direct competitors," Gendron adds. "Some of them come from large companies that have been bought and sold, and they are themselves as having been treated as commodities. They don't get that here!" ☐

Economic resource experts from BioTide, Human Resources Manager Logic Supply's David MyWebDriver will participate in a panel discussion "How to Start Out in the Hiring Process," at the Vermont Tech Summit Friday, October 20 at 2 p.m. and Saturday October 21 at 10 a.m. at the Garden building, 20 Church St., in Burlington.



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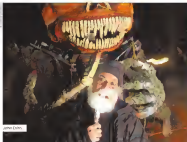
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Engineering Evangelist

John Cohn turns kids on to science with robots, rap and a pickle electrotutor

BY HESAN JAMES



Two weeks before Halloween, IBM fellow John Cohn is out in the woods, pitched as a generator with his legs, baying out howlers under his attempt to program his cinematic pumpkin-headed monster. Projects, to fold up his arms after a period of inactivity, so the limbs aren't crushed when the beast is lowered peacefully from its 16-foot height into a crouching position on the ground.

though," Scatena says, gesturing to Cohn through the trees.

Cohn is a technologist, with 50 patents issued or pending. He designed the chips for the Xbox 360, PlayStation 3 and, his personal favorite, the Wii. But the 52-year-old, who lives in a converted schoolhouse in Richmond, has had another focus for the last 23 years, getting kids excited about science, engineering and technology. He's traveled to schools across the country

HE DESIGNED THE CHIPS FOR THE XBOX 360, PLAYSTATION 3 AND HIS, PERSONAL FAVORITE, THE WII.



Accompanying Cohn is John Scatena, who helped create the monster for William's Haunted Forest as an IBM intern three years ago. Now, fresh out of graduate school and in his first year working for IBM, the young engineer considers tinkering with the monster just exactly part of his job description. He's not getting paid for this gig.

"I do get to work with one of the greatest technical geniuses in Vermont,

with his stage show "Johns and Wains" in which he electrotates pickles, explodes Rice Krispies and uses an EEG hooked up to a thermostat — both homemade — to make music from kids' heartbeats.

"What we're trying to do is get kids excited," says Cohn, "let them in on the secret that there is nothing cooler than being a science geek."

ENGINEERING EVANGELIST BY P-20

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Engineering

Cohen does look cool — in a geeky kind of way — casually cradling code books, his pumpkin robot, its orange eyes glowing while its electronic innards buzz and gurgle. Ever since he began his educational outreach, Cohen has branded himself as a creative control, and he looks the part. His kempt white-gray hair and full beard cradle his face like a state robe.

Why has this technical genius devoted so much time to education? Cohen reaches into his pocket and pulls out a small screen engraved with the name Sam. It's a tribute to Cohen's middle son, who was killed in a traffic accident in 2006 at age 14. Ever since, Cohen has poured some of his energy into helping kids Sam's age with the magic of science and engineering. "It's a

example you could pry off the back of a television set and find generic components wired together to make a thing work. The computer chip changed all that. Suddenly, people like Cohen and his colleagues at IBM started looking at those components onto specialized chips. You couldn't see what was in there and how it was working, let alone take it apart and reassemble it.

But Cohen says technology is moving back to transparency, for one simple reason: "Geeky people wanted the Internet," he says.

Cohen stops pacing for a moment and turns his attention to Stanton, who is struggling with the mouse's cords. It is supposed to open and close when someone speaks into a microphone. It isn't working. Cohen takes the mouse and tries a few beeping noises. Nothing. He tries a different pitch.



thing that has made the most sense to me," he says. "In some ways, it's been healing."

Cohen gets up from his greenhouse and begins pacing up and down the trail leading deeper into the Houston Forest. When he was a child, Cohen says, he didn't need any compelling character to convince him to pursue technology. Growing up in Houston, Texas, he was "completely surrounded by the space race," he wrote in a *Washington Post* essay. By the time he saw Neil Armstrong's first touch the dusty surface of the moon, the 10-year-old Cohen had been upstaged in study engineering.

Then again, he was "really geeky," he admits. Cohen says much of his early childhood talking with his father, the do-it-yourself kits that provided electronics hobbyists with all the components — and instructions — they'd need to build their own TV sets or other gizmos.

"It was stupid to begin with, but then over the next 20 years, it became increasingly cool," says Cohen. Why? Electronics were becoming steadily less accessible to hobbyists because "the technology became a little less transparent," he says. In the '60s, for

example, he breaks into song: "Hello, I love you, won't you..." Bell nothing. He passes the mic back to Stanton, offers some words of encouragement and walks her back to the trail to restart his thought.

The Internet, Cohen says, made technology accessible again because it allowed people to share ideas — and, more importantly, to share code and design files, going way up the phylogenetic chart to "open source." As a result, a new transparency was born, says Cohen.

He gestures to the pumpkin robot and explains that it operates on an Arduino microcontroller, the open-source circuit board designed to make electronics more accessible to hobbyists and scientists alike. "The team has created a company based on 'giving everything away,'" wrote *Wired* magazine of the team less responsible for the book "On a Web site, it posts all its trade secrets for anyone to take — download them and you can manufacture an Arduino yourself, there are no patents." Kinda like a high-tech Houdini.

Now that DIY technology is feasible — and relatively affordable — Cohen and other local tech education want to make it available to Vermont communities. It's one

thing to wear kids with an automatic power cut teacher to give them the tools to make something themselves. "I can tell you about riding a bike, but it's pointless," says Cole. "You've got to do it."

To that end, for the last year or so, Cohen has been working with Essex High School and the University of Vermont to set up a network of so-called "makerspaces." The labs would be equipped with tools such as 3-D printers and circuit-board cutters, staffed by students and other trained community members, and open to students and the general public.

Kean High School received a \$50,000 grant last summer to create a lab, which would be affiliated with another lab at UVHM, says Joe Chao, the high school's learning community leader for math, science and design technology. Chao was first introduced to the interdisciplinary concept when he had some colleagues visit an engineering and science magnet school in Virginia. He approached Cohen to be on the advisory board. "The

There is cooler technology in the science

work, rather than wasting school hours on "projects made out of possible articles."

Another bonus: Midwinters would offer opportunities for people to work across disciplines — an artist may want to partner with a computer scientist, say, to design a template for a metal sculptor. Chase and Cohn agree this is likely to attract more girls and young women to the male-dominated field.

According to Cohen, less than 10 percent of engineers are women. The field "hasn't been very inviting," he says, citing a recent study in which people were asked what they think about engineering. The top three answers were "It's difficult," "You have to be really good at math and science," "It's not for everyone."

Still, Cohn believes that the public perception — at least among young people — is shifting. Thanks to his work with these days quare programming low with nancy computer programming and more with fiction and nonfiction.

"It's all about engaging people's imaginations," says Cohen, who has done some crazy things in the name of that goal. For 58 days in 2004 he lived in an abandoned Los Angeles warehouse with nine other cast members of the Discovery Channel show "The Colony." The controlled living space was designed to simulate life after a global catastrophe. Cohen was the resident scientist, hooking together radio-dish electronics and — what reality show would be complete without it — a solar furnace.

ToGardner was more than open to opportunity to connect with young thinkers and get their psychical chops honed and engineering. So did it work? "I have 4200 Facebook friends," he says proudly. "I get a lot of people talking. I can't think of a better way to reach so many people all at once."

He reaches other communities that give at Harvard. Main is the annual Fall Festival in the Nevada desert. Cuba and his friend Hunter Wills, the Madison sculptor and mechanical mountaineer who founded and built Foghorn's paramotor structure, constructed a massive self-powered, drivable ferris wheel for the event. The Willses, you can guess their creation is green, the wheel lit up with blue colorful lights, in what might be the chain filled with nearly 1000 lightbulbs glowing in a cooperation.

"It's a senseless beauty," says Cohen.

And then there's his music video, "Engineering Paradise," which has more than 180,000 hits on YouTube. Decked out in a two-day 14-hr coat, the man

COOL
NOTHING
MAN BEING
CE GEEK.

each as, "If you be a gamer you can't **give** me no tip 'cuz when you be **be** around on Internet, you be **be** around on it."

Some say the open-source era has marked the end of the inventor; Cohen doesn't buy it. Sure, the individual glory of Thomas Edison-style inventing might be gone, but Cohen is confident that kids today are excited by the prospect of using new technology to produce innovative and meaningful things, especially when it comes to fixing down their generational

"You don't have to sell kids on the fact that technology might have gotten us into this mess, but technology might also get us out of it," he says. Plus, these kids aren't interested in creating stuff that will make them rich and famous. He believes what motivates kids to create is exactly what motivates him: the simple joy of creating and the desire to do good work.

"Doing something good could mean saving the rainforest, or it could mean having a really good time at a concert," he says, pointing. "Making budgets isn't that important to me. But making peace or art or music is." (3)

Elaine Cahn will deliver his "Jellis and Yours" presentation at the Vermont Tech Live on Friday, October 18, at 11 a.m. at the Sanders building, 290 Church St., in Burlington.

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Scaling the Firewall

Vermont's Pwnie Express sells a powerful new tool for cyber-security experts — and hackers

BY KEN PICARD



Many a lucrative industry is born from antiseestablishment roots. Hip-hop music tapped the gritty lifestyle of inner-city gangs and turned it into solid gold. Barbers and stitchworkers turned once-maligned and often-illegal vocational professions into family-friendly, middle-class-dollar industries.

Similarly, the cyber-security world has its share of entrepreneurs who wear the "hacker" label with pride. Hector Jeff Moss, aka "The Dark Tangelo," founded two of the world's largest hacker conventions, Black Hat Technical Security Conference and DEF CON. Hacking Conference. In recent years, these annual events have morphed into recruitment grounds for cyber-security experts working at the FBI, CIA, NSA and Pentagon. Further evidence that divides between the black hats and white hats can be found: In April, Moss was appointed chief security officer for the nonprofit Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, the group charged with preserving the operational stability of the Internet.

Vermont's own Pwnie Express, founded in 2010, also embraces the hacker aesthetic. The company sells products that allow its clients to test for vulnerabilities in their computer networks. The name comes from the hacker term "pwn" — it rhymes with "own" — which means to control another person's computer, often surreptitiously and for unscrupulous purposes.

Despite the illicit-sounding moniker, company founder and sole employee Dave Porcello says Pwnie Express is one of the good guys. His clients are all "legitimate security professionals" who work to keep criminal hackers from breaching their firewalls and wreaking havoc on their organizations.

Pwnie Express helps its clients play defense by providing a good offense. Porcello admits that the company's hottest product, the "Pwn Plug," is a very powerful offensive tool that can be dangerous in the wrong hands. Little wonder that since its release, in August 2010, hundreds of Pwn Plugs have been

sent to security experts at major corporations, universities, and U.S. military and intelligence agencies.

Porcello, 32, is a former IT security expert from Boston who spent five years at Vermont Mutual Insurance Group in Montpelier before starting the company in June just as his business took off. He says the idea behind the Pwn Plug — a "drop

in" of the information security world known as "vulnerability assessment," an umbrella term for various technical analyses of computer networks.

Simply put, a vulnerability assessment looks for weaknesses or mistakes that allow hackers to enter a network undetected. Once inside, a hacker may try to damage, disrupt or shut down an organization's operations, as a hacker named "Codeine" did to the University of Vermont's website in

explanation. "So, the question is, how can you get on to your own network and know whether [data is] leaking?"

Security experts protest against such leakage, sometimes called "data exfiltration," by conducting penetration testing, or "pen-testing" for short. In effect, pen-testing identifies those vulnerabilities, then exploits them in the same way a hacker would.

Enter the Pwn Plug, a Li-Ion-powered microcomputer that's about the size of a battery charger and fits in the palm of your hand. It plugs into a wall outlet and connects to a network either wirelessly or via an Ethernet cable. It runs a suite of open-source software familiar to all security professionals, but it's the last device that lets a user operate it remotely.

The Pwn Plug is small, portable and relatively unobtrusive — a snail for \$360 — and part of its appeal is its usability profile. Since the device can easily be mistaken for an AC adaptor or power brick, the Pwn Plug can be placed in as often surreptitiously and never attract suspicion. In fact, it even comes with decals that can encourage it as another gadget, such as a plug-in air freshener.

Once connected, Hughes says, the Pwn Plug creates an "encrypted tunnel" through the firewall and out of the network. Essentially, this secure channel can then be used to control the device remotely. It's at the discretion of the user to determine what software tools he or she decides to use — and for what purposes.

Who's getting the Pwn Plug? Porcello and Hughes won't disclose the names of specific customers, but of the more than 400 devices that Pwnie Express has sold — the majority in the last three months — some have gone to Boston's 50 companies, the U.S. Army, Air Force, Coast Guard and Department of Defense. In fact, Pwnie Express now has the authority to sell to any agency of the U.S. government and has secured expert certification, though the company can't sell to foreign governments. (Porcello claims an order ever came in from Iran, it was denied.)



box," as any computer, that's designed to give a user remote access to a computer network through covert channels — has been floating around for years. He was simply the first to commercialize it.

"It's something that hackers are actively using, as security professionals have to be aware of it, too," Porcello explains. "And some of them are realizing they have to be using these themselves."

Mark Hughes, a former U.S. Army cryptographer who handles marketing for Pwnie Express, explains how the Pwn Plug fits into a previously unfilled

August. A hacker may plant malicious software, or "malware," to harvest valuable data, such as credit card numbers and other personally identifiable information that can be used for fraud and identity theft. A hacker may also steal proprietary information for industrial espionage, steal secrets for cyberterrorism, or classified information to share or otherwise a government.

"A lot of times you can be losing data and not know you're losing [them], and still be held responsible," Hughes

One Pwntic Express buyer is a security professional who was tasked by his employer, a major national bank, with infiltrating 36 of the company's branches. According to Hughes, the security professional would enter each branch and pretend to be a maintenance worker who was monitoring the building's climate-control system. Each time he was allowed inside, he'd connect the Pwn Plug to a computer via an ethernet cable. One bank manager even got up from her chair and allowed him to climb under her desk to install it. The exercise demonstrated to the bank just how easy it would be to penetrate its defenses.

And just last week, Hughes was contacted by a state attorney general's office, which ordered a "Pwn Phase" — a sinister Pwntic Express product, which operates on cellphone and wireless

Stephenson, who is familiar with the Pwn Plug but hasn't tested one himself, calls the device "a very dangerous tool, because it provides the ability to have a back door into the network."

As he explains, most computer networks are what he calls "steady networks." They're hard and crunchy on the outside and soft on the inside. That is, in recent years, firewalls have become sufficiently hardened to keep out most unwanted visitors. The far bigger threat these days are those that come from inside the firewall, where it's far less common for data to be encrypted.

How do hackers get to the "soft inside"? Stephenson likens today's most serious computer threats to vampires. They can't bite you in your own home unless they're invited inside. Hackers do this in a variety of ways, such as by send-

IT'S SOMETHING THAT HACKERS ARE ACTIVELY USING, SO SECURITY PROFESSIONALS HAVE TO BE AWARE OF IT, TOO.

DAVE PORCULLO

networks — to track an ethnic gang that traffics in children. As Porcullo put it, "Apparently, this is something people have been waiting for."

Although Pwntic Express was incorporated last year, Porcullo says he sold fewer than a half-dozen Pwn Plugs in 2010 and did no marketing whatsoever on the product until recently. Porcullo and several of his subcontractors (including Hughes) attended Black Hat in late July but didn't even set up a booth.

Nevertheless, as they arrived at the convention site, Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, Porcullo recalls riding up the escalator and being surprised by a giant Core Systems banner on the wall that read, "Take our security challenge and win a Pwntic Express Pwn Phase." The following week, at the DEF CON conference in Vegas, Pwntic Express set up a booth and sold more than 200 Pwn Plugs in three days.

"It was extremely well received," Porcullo says.

The potential for abuse of these devices is obvious. Peter Stephenson is director of Norwich University's Center for Advanced Computing and Digital Forensics, and also serves as Norwich's chief information security officer. He says Norwich is hit by about 15,000 cyber attacks per day, as he fully appreciates the nature of the risks out there.

ing increasingly innocuous and legitimate emails containing attachments with malware or other hidden programs. The Pwn Plug, he adds, could be used as a security tool, or "like the vampire." Once allowed inside, it can track your network dry.

Stephenson emphasizes that he's not denigrating the product or its developer. "I have all the respect in the world for these folks [at Pwntic Express]," he adds. "What these guys have done with this thing is clever. The technology is good technology."

At the same time, Stephenson notes that when he mentioned the Pwn Plug to Norwich's security engineers, "the immediate reaction was, 'I'm glad that that won't work on our network, because if it did, every student in here would know it.'"

When asked about that remark, Porcullo's smile could almost be heard over the phone line.

"I don't know," he says. "A lot of people think that, but in reality, I can pretty much guarantee that this would get through that network."

Let the cyber games begin. ☺

Special Coverage will be featuring an expert comment from Dave Porcullo and a Security Challenge. 3800 N. 1st Ave., New Beverly Building, 95008-0414, in Burlington.

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Ready, Set, Play

Dev Jana offers sound advice to Vermont's growing game-design community

BY PAMELA POLSTON



You go online to play a new game called "Roy G Basts." Immediately, you hear a rhythmic, industrial clunk, and it picks up speed. Syncopated percussion on a muted high-hat adds an almost jazzy kick. A slightly strange electronic melody bue bubbles up. All this coalesces into a shoegaze soundtrack, and you find your toes tapping, head bobbing, your body moving in time. And this is before "Roy G Basts" even begins.

Click on the game's introduction, and you hear an even stranger riff, vaguely reminiscent of an old Alien Brothers tune. But start to play in earnest and the sounds turn edgier, slightly sinister, raising up the adventure level as you try to defend a cute little 3-D robot named Roy against an invading horde of bugs. You become aware that your own mouse elicits a variety of tones.

"Roy G Basts" is an online tower-defense game created by Dev Jana, 35, a game designer and assistant professor at Burlington's Champlain College. A multi-instrumentalist, he also composes the procedural music for his games.



Screenshots from Roy G Basts

Recently, he's helped to create a new specialty within Champlain's nationally renowned Game Studies minor arts. The way a game sounds, he believes, is at least as important as how it looks.

This weekend at the Vermont Tech Fest, Jana says visitors will be able to hear, and play, "Roy G Basts" on Mac and PC — "It will be about 90 percent done," he promises. Versions for iPhone and

Android platforms will roll out by early December. After that, the owner of Jana Media will begin production on his next two games.

Jana doesn't spend much time sitting still. "I'm extraordinarily active," he declares in between bites of pizza at a recent lunchtime interview. "I hate sleeping."

Indeed. The speed at which Jana

movies is mirrored in the way his words tumble out, as if trying to keep up with his thoughts. Check out his guitar playing on YouTube, and you can see his fingers are equally nimble.

The son of immigrants — Indian father, Vietnamese mother — Jans was born in Reno, Pa., and earned degrees in computer systems and game animation. Over the decade before he came to Burlington, he taught at several schools around the country, worked for private companies large and small, designed games, created apps for the iPhone, and — apparently didn't sleep much.

Since arriving here just over a year ago with his wife, Krystal, Jans has fully immersed himself in what he calls a "very welcoming" community — both academic and musical. He plays in several bands — Burlington's Army, Phil Yates and the Affiliates

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DER JANS

and his own Dangerously Physics — and has quickly become a popular instructor at Champlain.

"We were very happy to find him," says Amanda Crispel, game-program director and manager of the Game Studio, in a phone interview. "He has an incredible skill set. Students are fighting over getting into his production class." Crispel adds that Jans' audio course has made Champlain's game-design curricula "even richer."

Since it launched in 2004, the college's Game Studio — which offers design, art and animation, production, and programming in a "cohort," team-based structure — has grown dramatically. Jans is one of 15 teachers overseeing a cohort of nearly 250 students. "It's now a fifth of our college population," Crispel notes.

This year, the Princeton Review ranked it among the top 10 game-design programs in the country. A bonus: Selected Game Studio students get cutting-edge, real-world experience working on outside projects with game-design professionals at the college's Emergent Media Center. And they have an opportunity to study at Champlain's Mountain campus, the Quabbeccy is the world's second-largest game development center, home to Electronic Arts and Ubisoft.

Jans says his slide teaching at Champlain "very fulfilling." But he's less effusive about the state of Vermont's general support for the gaming industry. "I can name 15 tech hubs," he says of the vibrant local music scene. "We

should be able to name people who are making games here."

Jans wants to help change that. "The Tech Jam is kind of a coming-out party for me," he suggests. He's eager to demonstrate that Vermont is exactly the kind of place for small, start-up, technology-based business.

"I want to attract part of the billion-dollar gaming industry here," Jans says. "People get connected here; there's camaraderie and community. There's the kind of strong working environment that can help sustain a gaming industry."

Though he believes games are an important way to reach "young minds," Jans points out that games aren't just for kids anymore. "Games are starting to mature," he says. "It's a great creative-experience medium and an enormous industry. There is no reason to approach it as toys."

Crispel agrees. "Games are becoming an extremely communications media," she says, noting that some of Champlain's gaming graduates work in public relations, business, education and other kinds of instruction. "There are lots of areas and learning environments." She also agrees that Vermont is "an excellent place for small, independent studios." She adds agents that Vermont is the way of success of small tech studios because of the way they handle contract labor. It does contract work out of state.

The growing number of technology businesses — and tech-oriented graduates — in Vermont may eventually lobby for changes in that environment. Meanwhile, Der Jans keeps busy teaching design, making games and in composing music. "It's trying to show people how important sound is," he says. Studios have shown, he adds, that "those who listen to or play music regularly have less memory loss."

Remember that when you're defending Roy against the bugs? ☺

6 Der Jans is demonstrating his new game, "They O' Baked," at the Vermont Tech Jam on Friday October 26 and Saturday October 27 at the Studios Building, 28 Church St., in Burlington.

For more info: champlain.edu/gamedev
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SIDEdishes

BY CORIN HIRSCH & ALICE LEVITT

Teas for Babes

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On some evenings when AMY or JULIE GALT brewed a cup of coffee, one or more of their three children used to clamor for one, too. Rather than enjoying what their parents drink, though, the kids tended to turn up their noses at the intense flavors.

"Sometimes I found myself not to make it for them," says Amy Galt, but she and her husband eventually realized they'd rather their kids learn to savor solids or hot chocolate. So the Watson couple began spending 10 minutes each night in their kitchen, finding blends their kids might like — as a process that took more than a year. They also went at it in one into the new family tea-drinking ritual. "We wanted to incorporate all of these things to make it an interactive experience," says Amy Galt.

The Galts have decided to spin the fruits of those labors — "organic, caffeine-free, sugar-free, artificial sweetener-free, fair trade" teas — into the **GOODVIE TEA HOUSE**, a line of teas for kids. Since all the flavors are named for songs from old-fashioned music, a music store is forthcoming as well. Two of the flavors — the intensely aromatic A Little Night Music, which smells like warm apple pie; and the vanilla-scented Be Bop to a Boogie a Vee — launched last week. A third berry flavor, Bantingberry-Bubblin', will follow in a few weeks. All are sweetened with Stevia leaves and boast

various health benefits. The rootbeer is A Little Night Music; blue sips, for instance, as does the first in the Be Bop to a Boogie a Vee.

The teas, with colorful labels illustrated by Vermont artist Cindy Sereno, retail at \$12 per tin (with 16 tea sachets inside) on the company's website, and Cost happens they'll soon be for sale in local shops. Ten percent of each sale benefits music and arts programs such as Children's Art Village — which brings the arts to children in India and China — and Little Kids Rock, which revivifies school music programs in the U.S.

— C.H.

Crumbs

LETTERHOOD SERIES
It's been a long journey, and honey-baked meat, just like NEW YORK and BURLINGTON are on their way to Vermont state liquor stores.

The spirits are the newest project of **CALDWELL SPIRITS**, which, the Hardwick makers of Caldwells Honey Mead and Elderberry Cord, among other elixirs, the 90-proof gin is infused with juniper berry and honey, and the 30-35-proof vodka is distilled from raw local honey. Twenty-five case of each should be on shelves within a week.

The **POSITIVE PIT** concept seems to prove and grow. The family-owned chain has just purchased the space adjacent to its Plainfield branch that used to house **ROCKY RUN RESTAURANT**. Co-owner DAVID HARTLEY says the new space will most likely expand on the Positive Pit concept. The family now owns seven

Wrapping the Season

HELP PART FARM IS THE KITCHEN

Following two devastating floods that summer, **HELP PART FARM** in Burlington's Intervale has found a way to make lemons into lemonade — or rather, green chiles into beautiful burritos. "After the flooding of the spring, I flooded out, and I was like, 'This is going to be the shortest summer on record,'" says **MARA WILSON**, who runs the farm with her husband, **ANDREW**. "I started canning and preserving and roasting and freezing. These things happened, and I was like, 'All right, it is the shortest season.'"

Two weeks ago, the Wilsons had their kitchen licensed for professional use. At this year's **WATERBURY WINTER FARMERS MARKET**, the couple will sell all the peppers, tomatoes and onions they freeze over the short season — as burritos.

Both grew up eating burritos in Colorado. "When I was a kid, I go to my comfort zone, which is cooking my grandma's food," says Mara. Earlier this month, Spencer's mother savagely critiqued plain beans across the country from a favorite Colorado farm to supply the couple.

The Wilsons will make their own families on the eve of each market. The day will start with vegetarian or sausage-filled breakfast burritos. At lunch time, the couple will serve bean burritos topped with pork with green chile sauce, vegetarian red chile sauce or both, in a combination they call "Chloromex."

And Chaturmas will come early this year for Mexican food lovers — the Winter Farmers Market starts on November 5.

— A.L.

locations in Vermont and update New York, the most recent to open **PIZZA WOODS** in Saratoga Springs, NY.

Part of **WINTERBURY MARKET** the pop-up shops night at Montpelier's **MARKET** now have more places to find the fine. Custom **NOTE CARDS** also



Left: PIZZA WOODS and Megan Cohen



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food

Bon App? by Eric

Local dining app that I wish worked better

VERMONT EATS: THE ESSENTIAL GREEN TRAVEL GUIDE (\$2.99)

When I first heard about the new Vermont Eats app from its originator, Doran Yates, my curiosity was piqued.

An app that truly covers the local food landscape would be worth twice this price, especially as it's built with local from Yates' book of the same name. Unfortunately, getting this app onto your phone is cumbersome.

First, you need to download the developer's Sams World app, then download the 300-plus megabytes of data for the Vermont Eats guide. The download keeps pausing when my phone was asleep and ultimately took three days. (Yates says this bug is fixed with the most recent version of Sams World, but it still didn't work smoothly for me.)

The app itself is ambitious and impressive, though, with more than 400 listings for farms, cafes, farmers markets and food producers all over the state. Each has its own tiny thumbnail, which is probably what slows down the program. Once the links are worked out and users begin uploading comments, Vermont Eats will be a valuable resource for locals and agotourists alike.

Best app for building dinner around seasonal ingredients

ALLRECIPES DINNER SPINNER (FREE)

I used to be anxious without a list and buy whatever food seems fresh. When you shop like this — building a meal around a specific item in your CSA box or the short-list on sale at the meat counter, for instance — AllRecipes Dinner Spinner is your friend. It delivers basic recipe ideas on which you can put your own spin.

For instance, I was recently seduced by some fresh trout fillets in my local supermarket. The garnish recipe clearinghouse AllRecipes suggested parsley, but I thought to myself: "Parsley is so basic. I'll use something else." I used the fish with

parsley pesto, orange-coriander butter sauce, or pumpkin seeds and cabbage-cilantro salad. All lovely ideas, but never I would probably not attempt on a weeknight. When you enter your item into the more basic AllRecipes, it allows you to filter dishes with parameters such as "no dairy" or "low sodium," and then lists dozens of simple — and sure-fired — recipes. For trout, AllRecipes suggested techniques for grilling, glazing and pin broasting with fiddleheads. I picked a simple one: broil. If you don't have a specific ingredient in mind, you can use the "spinner," a set of dials with which you choose the dish type, main ingredient (e.g., beef or seafood) and amount of time you have to cook.

Best (virtual) celebrity chef to have in your palm

MARK BITTMAN, HOW TO COOK EVERYTHING (\$4.99)

Calling cookbook author Mark Bittman a celebrity may be a stretch, especially

when placed in the company of better-known chefs such as Jamie Oliver or Mario Batali. Yet when I tested his cooking app, *How to Cook Everything*, against the wildly popular version of the latter two, Bittman's easily had the most charm and depth.

Jamie Oliver's *30 Minute Meals* (\$4.99) starts with a colorful video and backs each recipe with even more videos. Yet it really didn't catch my eye. Mario Batali's *Cooked* (\$14.99) is fun to use with a readable mix of Italy that yields regional specialties. But the



SIDEdishes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 37

appreciated," writes Kalkbrenner in an email.

Winter is nearly upon us, but farmers accounting from Tropical Storm Irene may be busier than usual during the frigid months now that they have means to repair the damage. In an annual round of grants, the **VERMONT RURAL RELIEF FUND** awarded \$2,82,000 to 49 farms damaged by flooding, bringing the total grants so far to \$3,400,000. One hundred and one farmers have received aid.

—C.B.

Hospitals don't generally get accolades for feeding the public, but **PLATTENBURG HOSPITAL** is an exception. Last week, Health Care Without Harm, an international sustainable health care coalition, bestowed two first-place awards on the hospital: the Sustainable Food Procurement Award and the Sustainable Food Policy and Advocacy Award. Plattenburg's hospital beat out more than 400 others for the honors by spending more than a third of its annual \$3.6 million budget

on Vermont-made products, and even more on regional ones. FAHIC also educated the community through its **FOOD FOR HARBORING AND HEALTHY FOOD SYSTEMS**. Those good-citizen awards should make the chicken-savory caesars at **CAFE SPINNA** taste even better.

Those looking forward to this Saturday's planned dinner at **LAUREL**, paired with the Vermont International Film Festival's screening of *Dish, Women, Whiskey, and the Art of Service* had better make

separate reservations. Dinner will be served as usual at **6:00 PM**. **TABLE**, the **ELLEN CORMIER** restaurant, during and after the 2½ screening at 8:00 p.m. But the tasting dinner at **Laurel's** has been canceled due to scheduling conflicts. **Club Take 2** will also host a showing of *Living Wine: A Papercut's Journey* at 4 p.m. on Sunday. And, no, patrons won't be allowed as far behind-the-scenes look at the ferry monies.

—A.L.

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content is limited, especially considering the price.

Most damningly, neither of these two is searchable by ingredient. How to Cook Everything, on the other hand, offered numerous recipes for that glit of squash we face three or four times a year. The app is compatible with how many Vermont foodies cook using whatever is local and seasonal. Also, nested within each recipe are graceful illustrations and techniques for tasks such as peeling garlic and filleting fish.

Best app for wine pairing

WINE PICKS & PAIRINGS: NATALIE MACLEAN (FREE)

Once I'd needed on a dinner of trout asparagus and roasted brussels sprouts, I wanted to choose a wine that paired with both. More than a dozen wine-pairing apps currently jockey for users — I chose four — and each takes a different approach. With *Wine to Match*, a user is asked only broadly about ingredients — trout becomes "white fish" for instance, and some foods, such as nuts, aren't included.

Enter Natalie MacLean, the savvy Australian wine author who recently launched her own wine-pairing app. Her marketing has been so intense that I've decided it would be almost to much if I was wrong. MacLean's app is loaded with recipes for pairing, and can scan wine-bottle bar codes to generate pairing notes. For my meal, her app suggested an Old World Chardonnay, for the asparagus, a Viognier. At Fine Wine



Cellars in Rowe, Ed Schwartz hooked me up with his own choice, a 2008 Tegerosehof Riesling that he said would stand up well to both dishes. I also went home with a white Burgundy, as MacLean suggested. Schwartz's bryans choice was best in this case, but MacLean's recommendations worked almost as well. The downside is that she does not include Vermont wines.

Best app for beer pairing

CRAFT BEER APP (\$0.99)

Finding an app that pays attention to Vermont's microbrewers is a challenge. The app *Beer Ratings Guide* (\$2.99) includes quite a few in the mix, but with only the most basic

rating notes from users. *LoveBeer* (free) is intuitive and entertaining — with tips on judging scent, taste, and body, as well as techniques such as how to



pull a perfect pint — but it only covers the bigger brews. Of the apps I tried, *Craft Beer App* came closest to being a guide to local beer, the multi-step rating and pairing app includes *Hopson, Long Trail, Otter Creek and Magic Hat*. Oh, Vermont Brewers Association, why do you not just build your own app?

Best app for cheese pairing

FROMAGE! (\$2.99)

That in another crowded category, but not all cheese apps are created equal, and some have easy a Vermont variety on their lists. *Fromage!*, however, includes several local cheeses among its testing notes — *Vermont Butter & Cheese Company*, *Jeune Fausche*, *Cabot cheddar* and *Gabb*. Hill's *Auxiliary Mountain* among others.

The app offers fun pairing suggestions — though some border on the obscure. A super-Bacon Tassini with *Spring Brook's Tassini*? Use, OK. Self, *Fromage!* is a decent tool to use when navigating unfamiliar names at a cheese counter. ☺



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Sweet Science

Dale Conoscenti calculates flavor at Burlington's Rhino Foods

BY ALICE LEVITT



On his commute to Burlington's Rhino Foods, Dale Conoscenti has a mantra that plays on a loop in his head: He'll spend the day testing ice cream and chocolates at the factory best known for its Chemistry ice-cream-coffee sandwiches, but the words that settle his brain each morning are less appetizing: "Glucose and sucrose make fractions," he chants. "Monosaccharides, fructose, galactose, glucose."

Sound like the inner workings of a chemically trained chef? Hardly. But despite earning his degree from the New England Culinary Institute during the strictly French-influenced 1980s, Conoscenti is not your average classically trained chef.

Last week, he became the 76th professional to pass the international Research Chefs Association's grueling test to become a certified research chef. That job title applies to cooks who carefully conceive and test food for fast-food chains and other food manufacturers. And Conoscenti is not the only one certified in Vermont: John Shaffer, a flavor guru at Ben & Jerry's, is the other.

Conoscenti, 55, also got his start in research and development at the Newmarket ice cream superpower. Over eight years there, beginning in 1993, he developed flavors (including Frooti Fud, Pizichio, Pizichio, Holy Caramel and Lemon Swirl) and, through Ben & Jerry's, he degraded the Newmarket's then ice cream brand, looking out alone with its five-star owner over games of pool at Newmarket's offices in Greenwich, Ct.

Conoscenti's biggest corporate research chef at Rhino Foods is the 34th job in his career, he says. Other stops on his wild ride included creating healthy gourmet lunches at Fresh schools in the 1990s, for which he garnered national press; and running his own critically acclaimed Mapleleaf restaurant, Conoscenti, at the start of the millennium.

He left the arena of chef/ownership to take a job as corporate chef for the Indianapolis-based chain chain Fresh 'n Shake. Now, Conoscenti created gourmet cuisines in Boston at Biscuit Grove before going to Rio for the increasingly demanding schedule that did not fit with his other job: raising his daughter, now four



and a half. So, in 2008, Conoscenti joined Rhino Foods, which has allowed him to spend more time with his family — and, for the past two and a half years, to study for the research-chef certification. He would rise at 4 a.m. seven days a week, to craft *On Cooking: A Textbook of Culinary Fundamentals and Understanding Food Science and Technology*.

This way sound like the habit of a kitchen science geek, but Conoscenti says that the subject had terrified him at school. "I avoided all the sciences as

much as I could," he admits. "I felt intimidated by it."

That changed at NECA, where Conoscenti realized he was a home-on-leaver. "All of a sudden, science was different for me," he says. "I wasn't studying it out of a book. It was like being in a lab all the time."

Conoscenti had theoretical knowledge, until he began using often-complex formulas in his work, developing recipes and making nutritional labels for products.

Despite more than two decades working in the millers of vanilla fairs and preservatives, Conoscenti had failed the test twice before he recently aced the proctored exam at NECA. "There's a reason there are only 75 of us," he says, citing off-facts at the Research Chefs Association.

That number will likely increase, according to Conoscenti. When it comes to making nationally distributed food, companies look for someone with expertise not only in the principles of cooking and recipe development, but also in microbiology, heat transfer and packaging, he says.

All of these skills are applicable as Conoscenti tests ice cream flavors, particularly (since he's) and baked goods. Rhino Foods' branded products account for only a small portion of its business. The company's base and butter is in packaging, which means creating, producing and, yes, packing products for other brands. Until recently, every Toll House chocolate-chip ice cream sandwich was made at Rhino's Industrial Parkway factory so were Ben & Jerry's 'N'ch sandwiches. Rhino still makes Hood's ice cream sandwiches.

Once through the factory door, visitors must don a hairnet and sanitize the bottoms of their shoes in a misting machine. Down the hall, the R&D office is labeled with a warning that not products are used therein. What the warning doesn't say is that every product made is kosher and subject to surprise visits from a local rabbi.

Broadly, Conoscenti and his part-time assistant, fellow Ben & Jerry's alum Bob Douglas, have finally perfected a grab-and-go chocolate for Chicago-based manufacturer Prairie City Bakery.

They started the process in July, when the company asked Conoscenti to create a chocolate in its specifications. The single-serving dessert will be sold primarily at convenience stores, so ease was paramount. The critic needed to withstand freezing, be shelf stable for 30 days to two weeks, be able to eat without utensils, be sturdy but not foldable — and it had to taste good.

More food after this classified section PAGE 41

food

Consonetti says they used the first 20 test batches to capture the desired taste. He sent each version to Fresno City executives to try, with instructions on how to properly share the samples for optimal flavor. No matter what he did, though, the testers wanted more: cream-cheese flavor. The problem was, cream cheese is just too soft for the desired consistency of the product. Ultimately, Consonetti settled on a combination of powdered natural cream cheese and yogurt flavorings.

For 10 more batches, Consonetti focused on getting the correct texture. Not only did the product have to feel good to the customer, it had to be sturdy enough to handle temperature changes, including blasts of warm air with the opening and closing of the refrigerator door, without leaking liquids.

Fresno City approved both a plain and chocolate-aired version of the product, each of which is dated with graham-cracker crumbs. They're firm enough to pick up, but have a creamy mouth feel and pleasant, poppable tang. Once the kids at Elina master the picketing, which utilizes a half-moon-shaped hole for easy eating without touching the food, the chocolate will be ready for sale. Fresno City has already ordered 500 cases.

Consonetti's job also includes selling products that companies don't even know they want. He grabs pots from one of the recent several banners to demonstrate: coconut cream pie with Rhinogourmet particulates and crushed shredded coconut, macho-mashed milk ice cream with chewy banana bites, rich chocolate with "remolado" brownie pieces. They're all delicious. Best of all is something Consonetti calls "grape suzy," which consists of ice cream, cookies and real grape, all whisked with a creamy caramel melt. He craved all of these flavors to present to the Kruger supermarket chain as potential products to develop. No word from the company yet on whether fresh grape will soon be a frozen-dessert ingredient.

Another utility for ice cream adds accounts for much of Consonetti's work. Rhinogourmet manufactures more than 20 varieties of cookie dough for ice cream. That includes all of the particulates in Ben & Jerry's Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough flavor and swirls. The company even makes cookie dough for "Dippin' Dots." Consonetti is tasked with making sure that the dough stays great, despite its rigid, nitrogen-frozen state.

So, does it bother this chef with a classic French background to focus his energy on vitamins and starches? Not really, says Consonetti, switching from the ultra-high-end ingredients at his own restaurant to fast food at Rhinogourmet was a learning curve. He admits, but a positive one. At home, he follows a loosely macrobiotic diet, but he still believes there's room for unhealthy treats. "I don't have a problem cooking these kinds of foods," he says. "There's a place for everything. I'm not as snobby as I tend to be."

He also points out that science has made food healthier in unexpected ways. His favorite example: the lowly microwave. "Microwaving is

such a trigger for people. It's just out of not knowing what a microwave is that people get threatened," he says, shaking his head. "Microwave cooking is actually a form of steaming. It's the healthiest, most nutritious way to cook vegetables."

Consonetti's professional versatility is on par with the speed of the words that pour from him as he describes his work. It's clear that, after a 10-year job title, "food scientist" turned out to be the perfect match. He even darts in his spare time, helping fledgling brands to optimize their production and packing at the Vermont Food Venture Center in Wardsboro. "It's been a big wide world that opened up for me in food science," Consonetti says. And the world can thank him, one bite at a time. ☺



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WED.26

ON SKETCHY'S AMFAR ART SKINGOL Artists ages 16 and up bring sketchbooks and pencils to a busy day drawing session. The month-long event is a chance for 'sketchy' to bring out their best work and lots of fun. **Friday, Nov. 10, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.** \$5. **Location:** 1000 N. 10th St., 1000 N. 10th St., 1000 N. 10th St. **Info:** 214-444-4444

CONFERENCE & HAZOP-MAKER EVENT Level 1 conference (from 9.30) and Hazard & Safety (with experts) level 2 (from 10.30) agencies are organized to meet with industry about potential for company losses. The conference is held in the Conference Center, 10000 N. 10th Ave., Suite 400, (770) 333-3333, www.hazop.com.

Dr. Helen H. Towner, PhD, University of Illinois, director of the Institute for Health and the Environment and a corporate director, discusses scientific research on the health effects of electromagnetic radiation, and Deborah Kopatz offers a perspective on electromagnetic pollution in "Toxic! Market Street: You Get Out?" National Free Library 7-8p. Free info: 877-682-7439.

BACK-PED BUSINESS FORUM: Government officials asking entrepreneurs, demand workers and business owners to get with the real-world goal of encouraging more people to create jobs should start with safety in Vermont. Chapeau Vermont College offers Arts Handicrafts 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. free 1-800-831-9999. www.chapeauvt.edu

and needs on physical activity that show a significant relationship between the employment possibilities and those with no activities. Sign language interpreters provided upon request. Dr. Michaela Culligan, Coordinator 1-800-832-8275. Fax: (415) 434-9400. mculligan@ucsf.edu.

BAF AGONY/WHEN. Just in time for Halloween, a state school online has viral and funniest images that parody and satirize little to no class requirements about the little-known systems affecting your natural insect, water, the least beautiful, classmate. It's a fun, but not a joke.

INTERNATIONAL MOVIE NIGHT The club will be in charge for the FETCNET to make a difficult decision in Muhammad Saleh Hamud's 2010 drama *A German Boy*. Grigory Mukomol Library Haridat in Tyum. (www. info. 010-0000)

4800 hours of van footage to be a valuable asset
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Campus 31, November 1, 2000, 1:30 p.m. & 3:30 p.m. 347
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MASTER AND COMMANDER: THE DARK SIDE OF THE WORLD Peter Dinklage's 2003 album *Master and Commander* follows a thematic step pursuit of a mysterious French vessel during the Napoleonic Wars. Speaking Australian English, Dinklage's *Master and Commander* is a collaboration with the Australian National Maritime College, Hobart, TAS. www.dinklage.com.au 082-644-3432

THE WHISTLEBLOWER While spending six months in Bosnia as a UN peacekeeper's harbinger (co-played by Rachel Weisz) uncovers a human trafficking scandal in *Myra Breckinridge* (2000) (Drama) Catherine Keener (Drama) NC, July/July 1: 28 p.m. \$7.99 (v.m.) \$8.95 (info) 948-2630

and helmet made this book a manual with a 10-day lifespan. Various Chevrolet dealers sell them. 1.33 to 38 per. Various places, serving for the schedule and location. Info 800 360-0400

BOOKS, ARTS & FILMS Fans of classic comic book/superhero experience the long-awaited movie adaptation. Laughing Men Characters, Stage 2 run. Free info 253 5601

HARVEST LUNCHEON Chicken, well-seasoned, white sauce, baked in a pie shell, and three types of pie represent the best of southern country food. United Methodist Church, Burlington, 71.30 a.m. & 12.45 p.m. (30) (seated) outside info 912.180 ext. 6.

SEMINITY VOIDS Gentle gravel-filled in-situ or precast hollow in-situ concrete flow class units (Classical Interlock, Texas Junction is 3p in. Ø) - suggestions include using yellow and standard F colors. See 100 SDR.



The *Life of Paula Abdul* is the 2004 season's *There's Nothing in This Girl*. This *Life* is *Big*, could very well be applied to her standing eggs. Not that the comedian, best known for her quips on *NEED's* guest show "Wish Me Now... Don't Let Me Go," isn't in control of the show – it's just that she likes to improve. A lot. Her on-the-spot humor is, with spot-on... whether she's performing on "The Late Late Show With Craig Ferguson" or pulling audience members into spontaneous – not hilarious – conversations in nightclubs and concert halls across the country. Paula Abdul: you not know where the show is more, but it's bound to be a *fun* ride.

Friday, October 28, 8 p.m., at Barr Opera House: \$10-34. Proceeds support the Friends of the Anson Public Library. Info: 410-8188, barroperahouse.org

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DO I LISTEN FOR MYSELF OR FOR THE NAME OF MY FATHER? A STORY OF SEARCHING
BEHIND THE SCENES OF THE 2000 ELECTIONS: THE SEARCH FOR THE TRUTH

ALL COURSE MATERIALS LAST WRITTEN BY **Carolyn Harris**, COUNSELLING PSYCHOLOGIST AND
COUNSELLING PSYCHOTHERAPIST. FOR CLARITY, WORKSHOPS MAY BE LISTED
BUT WILL BE EXPANDED ON THE CLASS SECTION WHEN APPROPRIATE. CLASS SCHEDULES
MAY BE ADJUSTED TO HAVE A MORE FLEXIBLE SCHEDULE.



Instrumental Success

Real Vocal String Quartet is composed of the usual suspects: a cellist, a violinist and two violas. But the violinists in other string ensembles stop right there. For starters, the all-female foursome sings while they string, which can't be easy with an instrument wedged between your shoulder and jaw. They dance. They stomp. They improvise. And they share obscure works, preferring instead to leap from West African rhythms to bluegrass to Afro-Brazilian jazz. Having recently been featured on *John's Match*, the San Francisco Bay Area band has earned a rep as the area's "secret weapons," according to *Peace* magazine. Well, the word's out now... and the quartet will take a bow in Vergennes on Saturday.

REAL VOCAL STRING QUARTET

Saturday October 29, 8 p.m., at Vergennes Opera House • \$12-18, get half-price tickets at deals.sevendayvt.com or via e-supply.com. Info: 877-6723, vergennesoperahouse.org

Spin City

It's no repetition. A whirl of handblenders and spoons, mixers, and electric mixtures wheeled in back for the second annual Burlington Halloween Bike Ride. Cyclists, runners, skateboarders and inline skaters may congregate as philosophical creatures, but the costumed corollary celebrates consciousness riding and driving with a "shared events, not shared streets" theme. Prolific patches of all go parallel along a mix of two-mile routes through downtown and the Old North End before winding down with hot drinks, candy, music and costume prizes at Mapmakers. Sounds like something worth spinning for.

BURLINGTON HALLOWEEN BIKE RIDE

Sunday October 30, costume competition judging begins at 1:30 p.m., ride departs at 2 p.m., at Burlington City Hall Park. Post-ride party 3 to 5 p.m., at Mapmakers in Burlington Free. costumes encouraged. info: 363-8262, localaction.org/halloween



Circle of Life

Oh, Governor Phil Scott knows his way around a car. In addition to his legislative work, the Burr native has a blippy as — wait for it — a race-car driver at Thunder Road Speedfest. In 2006, he took his own talents and created the wheel — or, Wheels for Warrent, a benefit for Coastal Vermont Community Action Council's emergency and supplemental fuel assistance program. Let's break down this revolution: Folks donate used tires to the welfare, if they pass state inspection, those rubbers are good for cheap. If not, they're taken off the roads and recycled for a small fee. All of the proceeds help Central Vermonters in need here this winter. So roll with it.

WHEELS FOR WARRENT

Tire drop-off: Thursday October 27 and Friday October 28, 3 to 7 p.m., at Dulon Construction in Montpelier. The Stowe Transfer Station and Cowart Waste Management in Bellows Falls.

Tire sale: Saturday, P.m., 6 to 8 p.m., at Dulon Construction in Montpelier. Five donations accepted at no charge; if accepted for resale, \$4 tire recycling charge, \$15 maximum to buy each tire at the sale. Info: 229-5288, wheel@warrentvt.com



Post-Irene Fundraisers & Events

THU.27

HOUSE OF MIRAGE Charity, Fantasy, Horror and other genres of music and more. All 10 to 10:30, where the artists perform live. The House of Mirages, 27, which is open for the sale of books, clothing, jewelry and other items. The House of Mirages, 27, which is open for the sale of books, clothing, jewelry and other items. The House of Mirages, 27, which is open for the sale of books, clothing, jewelry and other items.

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ABSTRACT: *See the table on page 1444.*

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and spirit together provide
physical fitness/yoga flow
exercise, mental & spiritual
with rest/peace/faith/commu-
nity respect for others and
confidence in yourself.

VERMONT BRICKLINN JAZZ-FEST Mon. Fri., 6-9 p.m., & Sat. 10 a.m.-1st class is free. Location: Vermont Brasserie Jazzy Jazz, 55 Carey Rd., www.vbri.com.

Juliana Glases for more women and children. Brazil's JUIA influences strong feasibility studies, community training and regulatory reform. Brazilian JUIA offers training, funds and helps to establish and self-sufficiency. RM at a high level. BRAZIL JUIA efforts are positive, environment. Accept no imitations. Learn from our other work. JUIA "for" Fernando, CELI and JULIA. JUIA's Diego Black is Brazilian JUIA. JUIA offers for under Carlos Costa. Teaching in Miami, Rome and Miami in Rio de Janeiro. BRAZIL JUIA's Simeon Black is JUIA National Office. JUIA's Thompson and JUIA's Thompson and JUIA's Thompson. JUIA's Thompson.

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 The workshop is conducted by
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LEARN TO MEDITATE
Meditation instruction
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8 a.m.-12 p.m., or by appointment. The three-month classes meet the first Wednesday of each month for meditation and discussion, 5 a.m.-12 p.m. An Open House occurs every third Wednesday by evening of each month, 7-9 p.m., which includes an introduction to the center by a short video, talk and serving. Location: Burlington St. Michaels Center, 87 St. Michaels Ave., Burlington. Info: 802-675-0700, burlington@stmicahs.org. Through the practice of sitting still and focusing your breath in it, you can find peace and calm, you can relax with your feet. By simply sitting yourself in it, you are becoming genuinely empathetic toward yourself. Burlington St. Michaels Center offers meditation as a path to discovering your inner calm.

music

Late Bloomer

Songwriter Steven Leibman finally paints his masterpiece **BY MATT BUSHLOW**

"Do you know Ry Cooder was 21 when he did his first album? Twenty-fucking-thew!"

Steven Leibman is seated across the table in the dimly lit dining room of the Daily Planet in Burlington. His buddy Brett Hughes, is seated next to him. The local country-music outlaw is all charming smiles, clad in stylish Ray-Bans and a green-and-white trucker cap. But Leibman isn't looking at Hughes. He asks his question to the air, marveling at how someone so young could possess Cooder's intense brilliance on the electric guitar.

It's natural for Leibman to have age on his mind. The 63-year-old just completed his first album, *I Know They're There*, after decades of writing and late starts.

With his newly trimmed salt-and-pepper beard, wire-rim glasses, and glaze of club soda, Leibman could be the poster boy for every artist who took a day job to pay the bills and start a family — and then struggled to get back to his art. Though most folks never make a late-period album — or finish that novel — with the release of *I Know They're There*, Leibman has chased down his dream and made it real.

As for the thing, he pauses before answering. "It was now or never," Leibman says, with a dark chuckle, his eyes sparkling. "I could fucking drop dead at any moment."

He's only sort of joking. In December 2006, Leibman went under the knife for what he calls "uninspired" quadruple-bypass surgery.

Just a few months earlier he had embarked on a new search to find the right partner to help him make his first album. Leibman has a decades-long history of recording demos and one-off songs in studios from Los Angeles to Montreal. But never an entire album. In his mind, he's never been able to find the right musical collaboration.

As recently as 2005, Leibman worked with a team at Montreal's HotDiscTango studio to record a one-song "test" of his song "I Know They're There" with the

intention of working on an LP. Though he says the experience was "wonderful," it didn't continue past the one song. The answer?

"Creative differences," he says. Leibman, 70th singer-songwriter, recommended to Leibman by mutual friend and Stevie Nicks' keyboardist/singer Anselmo Gastelino Hughes had, in late 2006, just come off recording sessions for *Suicide Me Me Me* David, the constantly touring rock quartet built around the songwriting talents of Virginia Nathan Moore and Brad Barr of Montreal. After Leibman loved that band's demos — plus Hughes' recordings of his own trio, Menopira, and his composing and songwriting work for television — it was clear he had found his man.

But something deeper bonded the two musicians.

"It was a remarkably spiritual experience that we met," says Leibman. "Right off with Brett, our similarities, the loneliness, the metaphors, the movie references, the literature references. We were in sync right away. It was just heaven."

After working for more than a year to recover from his surgery and some post-op vocal injuries, Leibman belted up with Hughes in his home-apartment-cum-studio, Montclair Arts + Sciences. They labored on and off for nearly 17 months to craft Leibman's personal songbook.

The songwriter readily admits that the dozen tunes on *I Know They're There* are influenced after Randy Newman's classic 1970 album, *12 Steps*. Like Newman, Leibman uses first-person, character-driven narratives and a variety of musical styles that always serve the album as a whole.

As Hughes' musician calendar and age a gem of the *She's Mountain Men*, Leibman explains that the Newman reference is in line with a few basic principles the two agreed upon at the project's outset. This album had to be about the songs. And these songs had to serve the greater narrative and flow of the album. And, within each song, the vocals had to be mixed up front.

"We were referencing music from all different eras," Hughes explains. "But



Steven Leibman

what we kept going back to [was] '60s and '70s singer-songwriter things, especially Dylan records, where the vocal is right up there."

"After all," Hughes lays out in his slight Kansas drawl with a smile, "The vocal is the song."

And it shows. Throughout *I Know They're There*, Leibman's — the narrator's — voice is high in the mix, leading the listener through tales of lust, nostalgia, lost love, broken people — tales of sleekly character and sometimes sardonic humanity. His vocals are clear and powerful, with a soulful vibrato on the long notes and a slightly weathered, honest feel. It's a voice on par with that of early Newman, or Warren Zevon, and recalls the yearning and depth of Springsteen's epic albums from the 1990s.

And then there are the arrangements. Leibman and Hughes arranged the vocals with an absolute minimal drum team — and a deep bench. For fans of the Burlington music scene, recalling the finer notes while listening to the album can elicit a constant stream of "uh-huh" and "uh-huh." Veterans such as bassist Rob Moore, keyboardist Ray Packardson and electric guitarist Mark Spencer form the

backbone of several tracks. Brett Linder lends soul to a few tunes on pedal steel. That's Marc Clave playing the harmonica. And who knew Tyler Bellon plays bassoon? (Seriously.) Then there are string players, including violinist Jesse Brander, violist Paul Reynolds and cellist Michael Haim. And when Johnnie Day Darnell's stringing now shows up in the same arrangements as the strings, one can't help but wonder who put this whole thing together.

I Know They're There is constantly mystifying like that. And yet there are on moments of novelty. All that talent adds heart and soul to each song — only where it's needed. The string section, French horns, tuba, vibraphone, toy piano — even the old Edison cylinder recording of Italian tenor Enrico Caruso — all serve Leibman's songs in a way that few producers could pull off. It's the most quietly ambitious production ever recorded by two middle-aged dudes in a small makeshift studio in Burlington. Better late than never. **B**

B *I Know They're There*, by Steven Leibman, is available on vinyl from, sequoia.com and through cineciudad.com.

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music

CLUB DATES

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WED.26

Burlington area

LO LOUNGE (online with DJ Greg
McKenzie) 10pm-1am, Free

CLUB METHUEN (online with DJ
Greg McKenzie) 10pm-1am, Free

FRANKIE'S Karaoke 8-10pm, Free

WINDYBROOK SALOON
(online with DJ Greg McKenzie) 8-10pm, \$20-40, All

LOUNGE & CAFE (online with
DJ Greg McKenzie) 10pm-1am, Free

MANHATTAN PIZZA & PUB (online
with DJ Greg McKenzie) 10pm-1am, Free

WESTMAN (online with DJ Greg
McKenzie) 10pm-1am, \$10-15, All

BARBIE BEER (online with DJ Greg
McKenzie) 10pm-1am, Free

RED SALON (online with DJ Greg
McKenzie) 10pm-1am, Free

central
SALTDOG (online with DJ Greg
McKenzie) 10pm-1am, Free

SHUFFLE (online with DJ Greg
McKenzie) 10pm-1am, Free

TUPLO MUSIC HALL (online with
DJ Greg McKenzie) 10pm-1am, Free

champlain valley
CLUB LINDA (online with DJ Greg
McKenzie) 10pm-1am, Free

GOOSEBERRY CAFE (online with
DJ Greg McKenzie) 10pm-1am, Free

ON THE WINE GALLERY (online
with DJ Greg McKenzie) 10pm-1am, Free

central
RED & WHITE (online with DJ Greg
McKenzie) 10pm-1am, Free

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SHUFFLE (online with DJ Greg
McKenzie) 10pm-1am, Free

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McKenzie) 10pm-1am, Free



THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY: THE LITTLEST THING (FOLK)

Taking Flight With a background in classical music, the **Littlest Thing** is a decidedly sophisticated band of folk music. But the California-based cellists and bongoists are hardly stuffy. Think instrumental virtuosity balanced by a breezy, backwoods soul, music that is both intellectually stimulating and emotionally satisfying. The songbirds fly northwest for three Vermont shows this week: Thursday, October 27, at Claret's in Norwich; Friday, October 28, at Radio Rock in Burlington; and Saturday, October 29, at the Skanky Parakeet in Burlington.

CLUB DATES

CLUB LINDA (online with DJ Greg
McKenzie) 10pm-1am, Free

GOOSEBERRY CAFE (online with
DJ Greg McKenzie) 10pm-1am, Free

ON THE WINE GALLERY (online
with DJ Greg McKenzie) 10pm-1am, Free

central
RED & WHITE (online with DJ Greg
McKenzie) 10pm-1am, Free

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McKenzie) 10pm-1am, Free

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CLUB DATES

CLUB LINDA (online with DJ Greg
McKenzie) 10pm-1am, Free

GOOSEBERRY CAFE (online with
DJ Greg McKenzie) 10pm-1am, Free

ON THE WINE GALLERY (online
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SHUFFLE (online with DJ Greg
McKenzie) 10pm-1am, Free

FRI.28

Burlington area

CLUB LINDA (online with DJ Greg
McKenzie) 10pm-1am, Free

GOOSEBERRY CAFE (online with
DJ Greg McKenzie) 10pm-1am, Free

ON THE WINE GALLERY (online
with DJ Greg McKenzie) 10pm-1am, Free

central
RED & WHITE (online with DJ Greg
McKenzie) 10pm-1am, Free

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SHUFFLE (online with DJ Greg
McKenzie) 10pm-1am, Free

central
SHUFFLE (online with DJ Greg
McKenzie) 10pm-1am, Free

PHOTO BY JEFFREY M. HARRIS

SOUNDbites

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 33

Big dollops in Messenger this Friday, October 28, as acclaimed folk-punks from the **NOVA** **MAKES THEM** come to town to play "Stump and Smokey Juice" at the Vermont College of Fine Arts gymnasium to benefit the Vermont Community Foundation's Disaster Relief for Farmers Fund. DMB is also celebrating the release of a new live album called *Acoustic and Striped* — get it? — which hit shelves on Tuesday, October 28. Also on the bill, honorary Vermonters **TOUGHNOTES** and actual Vermonters **WILDEN BANDS**. Speaking of WDB, the indie-folk outfit is fresh from an appearance with the **LOW** **ANDREW** and **ADRIAN** in New Hampshire last week, and are nearing completion on a new record. That'll be released on their own label and may be pressed to vinyl.

Speaking of new releases, I've told the boys from **RAMBL** have been holed up in the Cave of Legends, hard at work on their next record. No word on when it might be done, but **RAMBL** **HARRIS** writes that the band has been charming out final mixes. Stay tuned.

Band Name of the Week **WY 444**. This local punk outfit is quickly gaining a rep as the baddest band in the land, having been kicked out of two Vermont venues in recent months for some unsavory behavior. Will they go for the hat trick.



when they play Manhattan Pubs & Pub at Burlington this Saturday, October 29? I have no idea. But it might be worth attending to find out. And if they are holed, at least two other solid bands are on the bill. **SHIRAS**, who describe themselves as "struggling against the current of good vibes and happy happenings" in Burlington with a simple message of "careless violence and drunken debauchery" and the Queen City's sons of **DEATH**, **BROOK FRANKS**, who reportedly have a full-length in the works for the new year. By the way,

Spit Jack also have a new EP on deck, *Whiskey Eyes*, slated for a December release. If any bars will still have them at that point, they might even have a release show. Fingers crossed.

Last but not least, safe travel to **ALABAMA** **RAMBL**, aka **YOUTH** **RAMBL**, who takes off on a lengthy national tour next week with **MICHAEL COLLINS** (no-prince **RAMBL**). Before she goes, the lo-fi electro-pop tunesmith plays a four-track show this Friday at the BCA Center in Burlington with Collins, **WAVE** **SALAMI** and **CLIQUE** **HATERS**. ☐

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THU - 10/27 • NECTARS
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W/ COSTUME WEEK

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WILLIS & THE NYC HUSKERS
W/ THE 100

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SAT - 10/29 • NECTARS
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OR BACKUS
W/ THUNDER BODY

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PUNKWAVE HALLOWEEN
W/ MADGASS GO TOOWN

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The Lullabies,
the Lullabies

Soundset Music,
Columbia, Florida

WDB,
Hazy, VT, New Brunswick

WDB,
Hazy, VT, New Brunswick

FRI. 20. 8 PM-11

HONKY-TONK DANCE SHOWHOUSE LOUNGE
Hot Hot's 1st dance with Connecticut
Raveals. 10 PM. \$15/\$2 AA.**JPS'FIRE** (Cont. from page 10) 10 PM-12 AM
Raveals. 10 PM. Free.**LIVELY** Friday Night Comedy (Saturday)
9 p.m. \$5.**LPT** Ladies Night. 9 p.m. Free/\$5 DJ
A/Top. 10 p.m. Free.**MADONNY JAMBOREE LOUNGE** (Cont.
from page 10) 9:30 p.m. Free.**HONEY HOLE** Andrea/Peter/Claudio
Raveals. 10 PM. \$10. \$5.**WEDNES** 10 North Main (only repeat
show). 10 p.m. Free. Raveals & the APC.
Raveals & the APC. 10 PM. \$10. \$5.**PAINT PLACE TOWN** Raveals. 10 PM.
\$10. \$5. 10 PM. \$10. \$5.**AMIGO BEANS** Project Organ Don. 10 PM.
10 PM. Free. Tenny Alexander & Anna
Schiffman. 10 PM. \$10. \$5.**FREE** The Different (Cont. from page 10) 10 PM.
Free. Raveals & the APC. 10 PM. \$10. \$5.**SLIPSTONES** DJ. 10 PM. \$10. \$5.**RED SKINNED** (Cont. from page 10) 10 PM.
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WED. 10 (HONEY HOLE)

Jamaican Me Crazy

In a career spanning more than two decades and some 45 albums, it is remarkable that reggae greats **JAMBA** had never worked with a Jamaican producer until now.

But the St. Croix-based band's new album, *King's Hill*, has a distinctly Jamaican feel, as it was recorded at Bob Marley's iconic Tuff Gong Studios and helmed by legendary producer Andrew "Rasta" Campbell.

The release features some of Jamaica's finest reggae musicians — including Tuff Gong's Smith and Leroy "Horseman" Wallace. This Wednesday, October 26, the band brings its Virgin Islands — now by way of Jamaica — brand of reggae grooves to the Raveals & the APC.

RED SKINNED (Cont. from page 10) 10 PM. \$10. \$5.

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THE BLACK PINK Hot Hot's 1st dance with Connecticut Raveals. 10 PM. \$15/\$2 AA.

COOLIDGE 10 North Main (only repeat show). 10 p.m. Free. Raveals & the APC.

CORC (Cont. from page 10) 10 PM. \$10. \$5.

THE RESERVATION RESTAURANT & BAR
10 PM. \$10. \$5.

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REVIEW *this*



Tommy Alexander, *Maybe One Day*

(JEP RELEASED TO DIGITAL DOWNLOAD)

The title of Tommy Alexander's latest recording, *Maybe One Day*, reveals much about the local "basement act" songwriter. The six songs presented by this California-born and Brooklyn-based musician, bristling with cautious optimism, but it's tempered by a palpable yearning, a sense of frustrated restlessness and an focused wistfulness. Through a churning stream of nearly acoustic guitar and voice numbers, Alexander plays the part of the wounded troubadour, delivering an intimate and emotionally vulnerable treatise on love, life and loss and the dark, quiet corners where they intersect.

Alexander is a gifted guitarist, blessed with nimble fingers, yet, refreshingly, he doesn't overplay his lonesome often clean and clear. And when they're not, they're tastefully drenched and rugged. The album's introductory title cut is one such example. His lightly picked, rippling progression is pretty, but it carries a foreboding undercurrent. Fleeting, disoriental strokes from the searching ruminations that follow.

As a lyricist, Alexander is less gifted but no less effective. His verbal turn of phrase generally bristles and straight-forward, characterized more by direct evoking than metaphorical wordplay — though he does offer choice allegorical asides here and there. Alexander seems intent with the idea of wisdom, particularly emotional and spiritual. A very evocative of contemporary poetry, "Dear Father" is the most explicit example. Here,

Alexander pleads, "And so we walk the weighted path and let the sun become our sun / And so we walk of these jade woods, though we'll never understand / This thin train takes a lonely road, it rolls on and on and on." Actually, the train probably takes a lonely track, but still.

Even in lesser lyrical moments, Alexander is effective through sheer force of personality. His voice — which at times resembles the fractured, stately croon of a young George Thorpe — bursts with raw, emotional energy. Alexander's performance is often dramatic and powerful, but never over-the-top or melodramatic. His songs are intimate and emotionally honest, not pondering. It's a fine line that Alexander walks, confidently. That bodies very well for his future endeavors and suggests his "one day" is maybe closer than he thinks.

Maybe One Day by Tommy Alexander is available at www.jeprecords.com/downloads. He plays Radio House in Manhattan this Friday, October 28.

DAN BOLLES

Chamberlin, *Cabin Covers EP*

(MULLOUL RECORDS TO DIGITAL DOWNLOAD)

Cover songs present an interesting artistic opportunity in that they offer less the choice to have established songs in a new light. For example, into Ben Ivie's version of "Star Love" by the Outfield. In Justin Vennor's hands — or rather his wounded falsetto — the song feels darker and more emotionally exposed. He lays bare the tune's almost wistfully unrequited of sexual yearning that the poppy arrangement of the 1985 original somewhat obscures. But trying to imbue another artist's intellectual power can also pose significant risk. In the wrong hands, the results can be disastrous (e.g., Sigeur). None the Rich's shambolic laughter of the 14th classic, "There She Goes".

The key seems to be maintaining the integrity of the source material while simultaneously imbuing the new version with fresh perspective. Local rockers Chamberlin strike that balance on an intriguing new collection of cover songs, *Cabin Covers EP*.

And speaking of Ben Ivie, the EP is off to an auspicious start with "Lost in the World." The song is a take on Kanye West takes on Ben Ivie's "Woods" that made the Internet rounds a couple of years ago. Taking

on the tone's multilayered, a cappella intro is ambitious, to say the least. But Chamberlin struggle to do it justice. They can be excused for performing it as natural, embracing the event. AutoTune that Vennor employs to such unique effect on the original, however, while they nail the arrangement, they're also frustratingly off-key. Fortunately, those issues are resolved once the band members sing on guitars. The remainder of the tune is a clever adaptation of West's version and sets the stage for what comes next.

The band's version of "Little Secrets" by Patience Pir — originally released last year to a bonus track to their full-length debut, *Bitter Blood* — is striking, as the band turns the tune from disavowed electro-pop into a sweetly brooding, a-sustained ballad. "Go Outside" by Cibo, taken on an almost classic R&B feel, which is a far cry from that tune's original sing-song electro-vibe. Youngpre



Weekend's synth-pop scorchers "Giving Up the Gun" as transformed into a loopy, ex-country wrecker. And EP closer "Pumped Up Kicks," by Foster the People, almost sounds as though a was meant to be acoustic chamber pop instead of a grungy indie-dance track.

On these *Cabin Covers EP*, Chamberlin offers a collection of material that stands on its own simply as a great listen. But what makes this collection remarkable is the sensitivity paid to the source material and the ensuing ingenuity with which the band personifies the new versions. It's quite an achievement, and one of the most enjoyable 30 releases of a "local" music you'd be apt to hear this year.

Cabin Covers EP is available at chamberlin.bandcamp.com. All proceeds from sales of the EP go to Home Road relief efforts in Vermont.

DAN BOLLES

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Photo: Christopher G. Smith / The Vermont State Office of Cultural Affairs

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FRID., SAT. 28 // **SOULIVE** (JONES PARK)

Family Matters On the heels of hosting their own musical festival this past summer, debbed the Royal Family Affair, instrumental funk and two **SOULIVE** are taking their act on the road with a show they're calling the Royal Family Roll. It is indeed a royal day, as the band will be joined by Brooklyn-based brothers in funk **WATTS** — one of the hottest up-and-coming funk bands on the scene. Both groups hold court with a two-night stand at the Higher Ground Ballroom in South Burlington on Friday, October 28, and Saturday, October 29.

SUNCO FIDEL

THE OLIVE ENGLAND ARE Derry, Ireland. Open House and Bar-Hoppy (rock) 11:30 AM - 1 AM.

regional

Howlowed Del. Get Up-Town (rock) 10 p.m. - 1 AM.

BURDEN JAMES Why Not Mandolin? with David (rock) 10:30 p.m. - 1 AM.
TOWNES RESTAURANT AND BAR Live with General Knowledge (Pop) 11 PM.

central

REXINGTON Open House (Pop, Rock, Soul) 8-11 PM.
CHARLIE O'S Kickassers Party to Dethrone Product Stars. 8 p.m. - 1 AM.

Prolet Vinyl (rock) 10:30 PM, Live, Heavy-Bark (rock) 10:30 PM - 1 AM.
WORMS 11 PM.
RED HONEY Sports (rock) 10:30 PM - 1 AM.
with Super K (reggae) 11 p.m. - 1 AM.

central

CHARLIE O'S Kickassers Party to Dethrone Product Stars. 8 p.m. - 1 AM.
SARIE ROBBIE LINDA & TAYLOR Live (rock) 10:30 PM - 1 AM.

champaign valley

SEAHAWK Open House (rock) 10 PM - 1 AM.
TWO BROTHERS TALKING Musical (Rock) 10:30 PM - 1 AM.

northern

HONEST Open House (rock) 8:30 p.m. - 1 AM.

WED.02

burlington area
12 LOUNGE Open House (rock) 10 PM - 1 AM.
CLUB HETTERIDGE Play (rock) 10 PM - 1 AM.
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HANDMAIDEN Open House (rock) 10 PM - 1 AM.
HANDMAIDEN Open House (rock) 10 PM - 1 AM.

ON-TAP BAR & GRILL Live (rock) 10 PM - 1 AM.

THE NIGHTMARE Live (rock) 10 PM - 1 AM.

THE NIGHTMARE Live (rock) 10 PM - 1 AM.

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THE NIGHTMARE Live (rock) 10 PM - 1 AM.

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CLUB HETTERIDGE Play (rock) 10 PM - 1 AM.
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Home Work

Andrew Raftery, Fleming Museum of Art

Ractors seeking color and pep might peek at to Andrew Raftery's exhibit in the Fleming Museum of Art's East Gallery — and decide to give it a pass. (After all, there is plenty of pinups to be found in the African paintings of Wosene Worke Kassef across the Marble Court.) But that would be a shame. Because, even if Raftery favors muted black and white, and his show tends a century-old medium — copypaste engraving — viewers who take the time to really look will find themselves captivated. There is a lot more than meets the currency glance in the five-part print series called "Open House." These are quietly astonishing achievements of technique, social observation and, not least, patience.

Raftery's vision is utterly unique. The professor of programming at the Rhode Island School of Design uses an exciting, ancient process, and nods to genre-scene artists of the 17th and 18th centuries, while expressing fully contemporary concepts — as this case narrativizes based on that staple of real estate, the open house. In a slide lecture at the museum last week, Raftery explained that the inspiration for this series, completed in 2003, was taking his mother home having Art historian Jonathan Wernberg, in his curatorial for the exhibition catalog, notes "an enormous gulf between the intensity of effort expended on the process and the banality of the subject matter."

And yet, this quotidian activity is inherently laden with richer meanings: the mad-onces of buyers, sellers and real estate agents, the material goods in the houses that tell stories about consumption, values, time and status (as Alessi testifies here, a Sub-Zero



"Open House" (detail)



"Open House" (detail)

THESE ARE QUIETLY ASTONISHING ACHIEVEMENTS OF TECHNIQUE, SOCIAL OBSERVATION AND, NOT LEAST, PATIENCE.

fridge there), the concept of home itself. For that matter, there are layers of connotation in the word "open." These are vignettes. And there is the temporal backdrop of the housing market — at a seventh when Raftery worked on this series, it had not yet.

Moreover, the artist wonders about the relationships of the figures he places in his scenes. Who among these men and women are married to each other? Is there tension between them? Do the two pairs of different-sized men's shoes in the foreground imply a gay couple? Whose baby is that? How do these individuals see each other?

The artist had plenty of time to muse on all these considerations,

"Open House" was two years in conceptualization, four years in the making. Along the way, Raftery created architectural and figure models — small, scale maquettes of sets, grained white — and numerous, increasingly elaborate drawings of his scenes before even setting hand to copypaste. Fleming curator Anne-Marie Macrean-DuGan's decision to include these meticulous preparatory steps in the exhibit was brilliant, Raftery admitted at his talk last week that he had not thought of his models and studies as "art." His mother, who is also an artist, disagreed. So did DuGan. Each of these stages revealed a gifted hand, and each a workly beautiful. They are also educational,

providing a rare glimpse into an artist's mind and methods. That's of value at an academic museum.

Seeing witness to Raftery's painstaking process has a more elemental advantage: It helps one truly appreciate his masterful engravings.

REVIEW to think about "how" is well as "what." Today's viewers might need reminding

that, as engraving, every single line is made by hand, and each bears the heavy responsibility of precision. The relative weight and placement of lines creates patterns, forms, light, shadow, expression — meaning. And, imagine it. There is no defile baron for mistakes.

In his essay Wernberg notes that Raftery's process is an extension of Old Master print, layer by layer, deconstructed and reassembled. But this, he suggests, "has much to do with post-modern modes of conceptualism and appropriation as it does with the history of engraving." It also has to do with the artist's predilection: Raftery said he is capable of focusing on one thing for a long time without growing tired of it. "I really like making things with my hands and making objects that are very highly wrought," he explained. "That is why I am so drawn to engraving."

In an age of throwaway printed materials and instant reproducibility, that alone is worth slowing down to admire. **A**

PAMELA FOLSTON

Andrew Raftery, "Open House," Fleming Museum of Art, Burlington, through October 16. flemingmuseum.org

ONGOING

ARTWORK SPOTS

ANTHONY GILBERT Featuring by the Vermont-born artist, also featured from works in a variety of media by other artists. October 17 through 28 at High House for Visual Arts in Burlington. In South Burlington. Info: 782-3587

ARTIST BY NIGHT Works by members of the Burlington Vermont Artist Association. Through October 28 at Arts at the University of Vermont. Info: 848-9880

ART 1000 BUREAU, JAMES HONORABLE "EXHIBIT" Work by Virginia Hargrave, James Honorable, Susan Hargrave, James Honorable, featuring work by James Honorable. Through October 28 at 1000 Bureau in Burlington. Info: 858-5222

CAROL GILBERT & BATES SPENCER The first time 2004 engagements and other visual works by the two artists. Through October 31 at Project One in Burlington. Info: 843-4464

CHRYSTAL & ELLEN ROSS "EXHIBIT" Work by Chrystal and Ellen Ross. Through October 28 at 1000 Bureau in Burlington. Info: 858-5222

JOHN PAUL Images of nature and animals. Through November 1 at 1000 Bureau in Burlington. Info: 858-5222

THEY, SOMETHING MUST BE DONE ABOUT IT Drawing by William, through November 17 at High House for Visual Arts in Burlington. Info: 782-3587

GRAND CONSUMPTION Twenty-five photographs, multimedia and objects. Through November 28 at Village Center in Burlington. Info: 843-8300

JOHN LUDLOW "EXHIBIT" Works inspired by the depths of Lake Champlain and the Bay of the Chaleur through October 28 at The Daily Press in Burlington. Info: 257-0877



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The Old Testament



JEFF LOK is a writer for Cartoon Studies, graduate who cohosts the Funny Minutes anthology and blog funnyminutes.com, and likes to make books with all his funny friends and draw funny stuff. Send him up to the top of the world.



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[illegible]

THE HISTORY OF GRADUATE COLLEGE AN ERA OF OBSCURITY: EXPANSION AND TRANSITIONS 1940-1960* An order of photographs, statistical records, college reports, notes, and video recordings that focus on the college's response to the development of the 1950s. In the 2000 Post Library Through Graduate History Graduate College in Pasadena, Calif. 91106.

WHO CARES? Artists inspired by the message produced on 4-by-4 inch square tiles donated by Morrisville South Coast Bank, a network of institutions and organizations that provide preventive care and support for youth at risk. Through Morristown Plus, sponsored by local arts educators.

champlain valley

ARTWORKS WOODS & HENRIET WOODS. Poetry, art, photography and film sculpture exhibited at the Close of 10 Trail Ave. Room 20. Through October 17 at Trail Avenue Museum. Info 505-5652

**BACKSTAGE AT THE RAINBOW CATTLE CO.: THE
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Full-length center stage interviews paired with the
photographs of Overmire's award-winning past years
documenting the queens at the Rainbow-Cattle
Co. is a pay tribute to a rural staple of Route 5 just north
of Brattleboro. Through December 4 at Vermont
Publics Center in Montpelier. Info: 588.4848

CAMBRIDGE 82-04472: Marks of Feovage, paintings, wickerware; inspired by the first two parts of the book and Vermont's back woods. Twenty percent of proceeds benefit the Vermont State Fair. Released through November 1 at Jackson Hole by Town Hall Records in Montpelier, Vt. 05602.

DEANNA SHAFER: Acrylic & collage - artwork to the moon, birds and trees. Workshop October 30 at Area 5 Contemporary Center (info 425-2565)

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and modern reproductions of traditional carving patterns tell the story of Vermont's marble industry. Part of the end of the Civil War to the early 20th century. Through November 11, 11 a.m. RT Center's Railroad info: 701-0102.

HOW DID I GET HERE? Second acquisitions purchased within the context of how they came to Middlebury are an historical curiosity. Through Governor Eli Middlebury College Museum of Art. 800-443-2038.

ICONS UNBURYED: HUNGRY
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 6. **SABINE'S BATHURST** Her best of painting
 (through 1999) in Al Leger's Gallery
 Madison, Wis. 414-0070

JOAN MARCUS, *Graphic Artist*, creates poster drawings that capture life on the street. She is currently taking place through November 2008 in her studio. Contact: 202-462-1111

KELLY FINE. Ford Center Film Institute, photographer of the Nevada desert by the ocean.

of the gallery through November 13 at Gallery 140
in the basement. Info: 4/24-4/434.

KRYTA CHENEY & JUSTIN BRYANT "Ice Effect"
Chenev's photographs of flowers and ice is a
Bryant's pottery and porcelain pottery inspired
by her work is water. Through November 10, 2010
on Main Street. Tel: 453-4010.

LOW GUARDIAN Work by the artist who employs her hand to both hand-drawn and computer-generated. Through November 20 at Christie Price Gallery, Charlotte 9804 State College, info: 408-878.

PHOTOGRAPHIC IDENTITY An exhibition by photographers of all ages. Through November 4 at Gallery In the Field, Evanston, Ill., 743-0225.

northern
MANICHEISM A Northern Perspective: photographs of Vermont landscapes. Through October 31 at First/Second Street Museum, 225 State St.

ALMA FREEDMAN-MILLER, *Crustal Things* was up the Texas podium toward the top of its Fall list when, such as, November 16 such 20

AUTUMN IN VERMONT Book by Elizabeth
Wooden, Garrya Kroll and Thomas Tink. Through
November 27 at Vermont Fine Art Gallery in New
York. 203.9.5551.

BARBARA FURNESS, "Translators' paratextual regimes"

Lorraine Reynold

The found objects in that make up Reynolds' assemblages are mundane, book covers, a yellowed page from an antique book, a wooden box. But their Reynolds is finished arranging them, the pieces become portals to past lives. A Fashion Institute of Technology graduate who now runs the trademark design department at Barcoi Scoreboards, Reynolds has her keen eye for composition to these bygone objects, breathing new life in the discarded objects of long-gone people. Her show "Ghost Stories" is featured in the "Black Cap Collection" at the Yonkers Gallery at Black Cap Coffee in Yonkers through October 31. Preview "Proposition of a Woman's Heart."

HILTON ARTISTS GUILD EXHIBIT & SALE With 1
gold medals, through October 21st. The Young
cup is Jumbo info: 803-2480

BEHOLDEN TO FORM ARTISTS Shaker-type Ben-Amos designs, by Carl Hersholt, jewelry by Kitten O'Brien, and paintings by Scott Sommer and Marlene Dungey. Through October 31, Artista Residence/Consortium Gallery in London, Ohio. Info: 603-886-0000.

RENNY FROMAN & CAROL O'HALLIN Sculpture
Enamel, paintings by O'Hallin. Through October 22
at WestBranchGallery & Sculpture Park in Stree
Info.252.3940.

SCOTT & KELLY FINE Photographs of Vermont.

WALLPAPER & GLASS Wallemmer by the artist who splits his time between Greenland, NY, and his sailboat in Key West. Through October 27 at Halsey Press & Art Gallery in Newark. Info: 525-4400.

Katherine Taylor-McBroom In the old Seattle Burnham house where they once lived, Taylor-McBroom and her family often heard footprints that didn't belong to them. When would come the sound of knocking and voices. A magnet once flew right off the fridge. Another time, when Taylor-McBroom was alone alone, she felt someone pull her hair. After her 2-year-old son told her he could see and talk to the spirits, the family finally called in the Green Mountain Paranormal Society, which picked up eight different EVPs (electronic voice phenomena), proof that ghosts were among them. "I was terrified most of the time," writes Taylor-McBroom in a novel. "Warm? Sorry child, I am terribly sleep." They moved out after a year, but the experience inspired Taylor-McBroom's chilling, mixed-media works. (Titled "Paranormal Hoaxer," so Uncommon Grounds through November 27. Browse it if you dare. Discounted "Baby")



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Curses, Foiled Again

Stephen Franklin Dunsen, 23, was caught robbing a gas station convenience store in Snellville, Ga., by police Lt. RW Brown, who happened to be visiting a friend behind him. "The manager was laughing at the time he was putting the money in the bag because he was looking at me over the guy who was robbing him," Brown said, noting that Dunsen apparently didn't notice Brown's uniform or the plainly marked Snellville Police Department pickup truck parked outside the store. (Atlanta Journal-Constitution)

Michael Wayne Austin, 21, stole a charity collection jar containing \$35.70 from the counter of a convenience store in Williston, N.H., only to be arrested before he could walk off with the loot because off-duty Marion County sheriff's Sgt. William Derichs was standing behind him. (Tennessee Star)

Epic Winner

Brendan Kelly, 18, admitted to throwing a hot dog at golfer Tiger Woods during a tournament in Santa Clara County, Calif., and explained he was inspired by the movie *Drive*, about a stunt driver who moonbats as a getaway driver. "As soon as the movie ended, I thought to myself, I have to do something courageous and epic. I have to throw a hot dog on the greens in front of Tiger," Kelly said. The National Hot Dog and Sausage Council promptly censured Kelly for "a violation of hot dog etiquette." "Hot dogs are meant to be enjoyed," council President Janet Riley pointed out, "not weaponized." (Santa Rosa Press Democrat, National Hot Dog and Sausage Council)

Where Doo-Wop Lives Forever

Pittsburgh public television station WQED announced it's devoting a new channel to saving pledge songs from its archives of "several hundred hours" dating back to 1940. Besides its own pledge shows, WQED broadcasts its feeds to broadcast sites from other public stations. "A lot of people really like pledge programming," station president Deborah Acikin insured. (Current)

Second-Amendment Potlives

Chou Unsumnang, 22, was hospitalized with life-threatening injuries after he accidentally shot his girlfriend in the head while showing his girlfriend a handgun. Naomi Rensell, 24, told Franklin County Sheriff's deputies she asked Unsumnang to pass the gun away, but he insisted the weapon was safe. To prove it, he held the gun to his head and pulled the trigger. The gun didn't fire.

He then pointed the gun at his head a second time and fired. That time, it went off. (Associated Press)

De Bears Drive in the Woods?

Anticipation about a bear broke into a 2002 Toyota Prius parked at a median in Lake Tahoe, Calif., then went into a rampage when it couldn't figure out how to exit the vehicle. "You could look down and see the bear in the car, and its arms were just flailing all over the place, through the windows and everything," said Brian McCarthy, 41, who watched with his family as the bear backed, scented, and snarled at the car's interior. It ripped open the seats, and bit a chunk out of the steering wheel. Then the bear shifted the Prius into neutral. It rolled backward out of the driveway, picked up speed, hopped a small rock wall and stepped on a neighbor's porch steps. After the bear finally escaped, McCarthy reported the incident. "It's definitely not a message to bear about," South Lake Tahoe police Lt. David Stevenson said. (Crested Color Times)

Storm Clouds

Brett Cummings, 23, a TV weatherman in Little Rock, Ark., was found in an unlicensed hot tub with a naked dead man. The victim, Doctor Paul Williams, 24, was wearing a chain around his neck that Missouri police Officer Gregory Rosette described as "silver in color and consistent with what I believed to be a dog collar." Although a witness and the two had been drinking and smoking drugs when they climbed into the hot tub, police filed no charges, saying dead play isn't suspected. Cummings resigned his job with KARK-TV anyway. (New York's Daily News)

Italian authorities charged seven actresses with manslaughter for failing to warn residents of a 6.2-magnitude earthquake that killed 268 people in and around L'Aquila in 2009. The seven defendants are accused of giving "inexact, incomplete and contradictory information" after smaller tremors occurred in the six months leading up to the quake. (Associated Press)

Almost as Annoying as Robo-Calls

Authorities trying to collect delinquent property taxes in the Indian city of Bangalore (disputed workers to beat drums outside the homes and offices of people who owe money "The more the noise, the more the embarrassment," city corporation Commissioner Siddanah said, explaining the city is owed nearly \$40 million in unpaid taxes. "In a way, this is shock treatment." (BBC News)

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"Amazing! Really amazing. Everyone was great. They took such good care of my baby...and so. He spent the first night in the nursery under observation...which was really hard but Sue helped us so much. She answered questions and explained it all. She calmed us down. Steve is helping us with nursing. She is so patient and spends lots of time with us. It's really helpful. He's my first baby."

And he is a ten pound baby at that! When we stopped by Hayden Anthony Sweeney was happily snuggling with mom Paula Sweeney and dad Steven Perrin. He's a lucky guy - his parents are natural. We think he looks a lot like his mama and dad agree. The new family lives in Randolph. We wish them all the best.



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